FBIS DAILY REPORT
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GENEVA OPEC MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE CONVENES 26 MAR

UAE Oil Minister's Speech

NC261525 Doha QNA in English 1425 GMT 26 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Geneva, March 26--(QNA)--The consultative meeting of the OPEC started its sessions here this afternoon at the Intercontinental Hotel to assess international oil conditions.

Qatari Minister of Oil and Finance Sheikh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah presided over the Qatari delegation.

The meeting started with an open session during which United Arab Emirates Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources Dr Mani' Ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, who is also chairman of the OPEC ministerial council during the current session, delivered a speech in which he said that the meeting falls within the framework of world variables in the world oil market since the convening of the last OPEC conference in Abu Dhabi.

He added that the new variables clearly affected the developing countries particularly in oil supplies since the oil companies decreased oil supplies to the developing states and changed it to another direction.

He referred to the price issue saying that the oil companies gained fabulous profits as a result of selling oil to developing states with prices exceeding those specified by OPEC.

Dr 'Utaybah affirmed that the recent developments in the world oil market should be met with the utmost efforts from the OPEC so as to enable the developing countries to surmount the above-mentioned difficulties.

He also affirmed the importance of consultations and contacts regarding issues of common interest among the OPEC member states.

OPEC Price Increase

NC271117 Paris AFP in English 1113 GMT 27 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Geneva, March 27 (AFP)--The price of oil from countries in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) will be increased by 8.7 percent to $14.50 a barrel on April 1, the Qatar Oil Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Thani said today.

The decision was taken at a ministerial conference of OPEC in Geneva.

MOGADISCIO ARAB LEAGUE CONFERENCE PASSES RESOLUTIONS

LD261324 Mogadiscio Domestic Service in Somali 0330 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD/EA

[Excerpts] The chairman of the Arab League Council of Ministers conference, who is also the Somali Democratic Republic's foreign minister, Challe Dr Abdurahman Jama Barre, yesterday afternoon officially brought to an end the proceedings of the 71st conference of the Arab League Council in Mogadiscio. In a speech on the occasion, Challe Dr Abdurahmen Jama Barre thanked all the delegates who attended the conference and made it a success.

The Moroccan secretary of state for foreign affairs, the honorable Abderrahmane Baddou, said he was pleased the 71st Arab League Council conference was held in Somalia, adding that this was an indication of victory for peoples fighting for independence and the defeat of imperialism.

He hoped the Somali people would overcome imperialism and neocolonialism. He went on to say there was no doubt Somalia and countries friendly to it would eventually win their just struggle.

The Arab League foreign ministers' conference held in Mogadiscio from 24 to 25 March passed the following resolutions:

To strengthen further economic cooperation between African and Arab countries and to establish relations between the chairmen of the OAU and Arab League and decide on a specific time for the holding of the first OAU-Arab League meeting; and to oppose Jewish policy in the holy city of Jerusalem.

The meeting also voiced its support for the resolutions of the Arab information ministers' conference held in Baghdad 27-28 January, 1979.

The conference also called for Israel's expulsion from the Universal Postal Union. The conference also resolved to act against Israeli posts and communications systems.

In view of the overall Arab situation and difficulty in Palestine and elsewhere, the ministerial conference asked the secretary general, Mahmud Riyad, to remain in office and withdraw his resignation.

BAGHDAD ARAB MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE CONVENES 27 MAR

Delegations Not Attending

JN261853 Baghdad INA in English 1835 GMT 26 Mar 79 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, March 26, INA--All Arab countries except Djibouti, Oman and the Sudan have said they will participate in the Arab foreign ministers conference opening here tomorrow to consider measures and steps against the ruler of Egypt in implementation of the Baghdad summit resolutions.

Palestinians' Arrival, Statements

JN242236 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2110 GMT 24 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 24 March--PFLP Secretary General Dr George Habash; DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah; Zuhayr Muhsin, secretary general of the As-Sa'iqah organization; Tal'at Ya'qub, secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Front; and Dr Samir Ghawshah, secretary of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, arrived here this evening in response to an invitation from the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

Talal Naji, PFLP-GC assistant secretary general; Muhammad Zuhdi an-Nashashibi and 'Abd al-Jawad Salih, members of the PLO Executive Committee; and Abu Isma'il and Abu Mahmud also arrived in Baghdad.

Dr George Habash told INA that the aim of the visit is to hold consultations on the ways to confront the treasonous treaty between As-Sadat's regime and the Zionist entity. Dr Habash added that according to scientific analysis, the phase which the Palestinian revolution and the Arab national liberation movement will enter, in the aftermath of the treaty, will be more serious than the phases we passed through after 1948 and 1967. He said this requires that all nationalist and progressive Arab forces define the clear tasks which they should struggle to achieve, above all, firmly confronting U.S. imperialism and working to liquidate its interests in the area as well as firmly confronting As-Sadat's regime and working to isolate and encircle it by strictly applying the resolutions of the Baghdad summit conference.

Dr Habash explained that among our tasks in this phase is that of mobilizing the masses of the Arab nation and their resources so as to be able to foil the plot. These tasks should be shouldered particularly by the Palestinian revolution, the joint National Action Charter between the two fraternal countries of Iraq and Syria, and the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation. This is why such meetings are important at this delicate stage in the Palestinian and Arab struggle.

Zuhayr Muhsin stated that the aim of the visit is to discuss the necessary measures to confront the high treason committed by Anwar as-Sadat against the Arab nation and the Palestinian cause. We believe that the situation has reached a point where it is not permitted to waste time. We have to take advantage of every moment to group all pan-Arab capabilities in an effective and united manner so as to reply to this conspiracy with every possible means.

Muhsin added that the Arab nation no longer has any choice but to implement the Baghdad summit resolutions accurately and to adopt more radical resolutions to encircle, isolate and bring down the As-Sadat regime.

He further said: We strongly support everything recently said by President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and Saddam Husayn, Revolution Command Council vice chairman, when they considered everyone who hesitates in implementing the Baghdad summit resolutions to be a traitor like As-Sadat, who has sold his homeland, nation and honor to the Zionist-U.S. enemy.

He added: We require a new Palestinian and Arab strategy so as to launch a total confrontation against the imperialist-Zionist offensive, which aims at making As-Sadat's treason a passage through which it can invade and subjugate the rest of the countries of the Arab homeland. He then expressed the hope that a revolutionary action plan will be drawn up that will be appropriate and proportionate to the scope of the responsibilities imposed by the current circumstances. He also hoped that this plan will be drafted before the coming foreign ministers' meeting in Baghdad so that all the Arab governments can be acquainted with the national Palestinian stand and the revolutionary Palestinian decision before the ministers start discussions adopting practical measures to implement the approved sanctions against traitor Anwar as-Sadat.

Saddam Husayn's Opening Speech

JN270923 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 27 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 27 March--Revolution Command Council Vice Chairman Saddam Husayn has declared that "Iraq will struggle until the end against anyone who makes an alliance with As-Sadat."

In his speech opening the Arab foreign ministers conference here this morning, Saddam Husayn said that any country which fails to commit itself genuinely and truthfully to the resolutions of the ninth Arab summit conference in Baghdad is an ally of As-Sadat, and anyone who is an ally of As-Sadat is an ally of the Zionist enemy, and we will deal with him.

Saddam Husayn said: There is no room for being neutral between one side reconciliating and collaborating with the enemy and another side struggling against him.

Saddam Husayn called for "doing all that we can to preserve our rights, dignity and the future of our generations."

Saddam Husayn added: We cannot in any way maintain silence over the treason of As-Sadat who has made an alliance with the enemy against the Arab nation, its rights, sovereignty and holy places.

Saddam Husayn emphasized the significance of making the whole world know that As-Sadat's policy is isolated from all the Arabs and that As-Sadat represents himself only. This can only be done by applying the resolutions adopted by the ninth Arab summit conference.

Saddam Husayn said the Arabs should not differ now, because by signing the peace treaty, As-Sadat has betrayed the trust, the sovereignty, the holy places, and the supreme values.

Saddam Husayn added: The Arab nation now hopes that the Baghdad summit resolutions will be implemented in full and in truthfulness without having two stands--one public and another concealed.

Saddam Husayn said that As-Sadat has actually signed the treaty, so let us apply the summit resolutions and let us prove that these resolutions were not ink on paper but real and truthful resolutions.

Saddam Husayn added: In Iraq's assessment, the summit resolutions are the minimum, and anything below this will mean the relinquishment of the national interests and honor.

Saddam Husayn added: Iraq calls on those who have the intentions and capabilities to adopt stronger and tougher stands not to hesitate in doing so, because this will enhance the power and dignity of the Arab nation.

Saddam Husayn strongly attacked the United States and said that the U.S. luring of As-Sadat to sign the peace treaty will not pass without results harming the U.S. interests.

Saddam Husayn said: The United States has acted against the Arab nation's will, interests and dignity; has acted with determination to divide the ranks of the Arab nation, ridiculed its views and harmed its interests.

Saddam Husayn added: The U.S. action cannot be but hostile to the Arab nation, and the Arab nation must struggle against this action with all available means.

EEC URGES PALESTINIAN RIGHT TO HOMELAND

NC261802 Paris AFP in English 1713 GMT 26 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Paris, March 26 (AFP)--The nine member states of the European Economic Community today in a joint statement urged a "comprehensive" settlement in the Middle East which "must translate into fact the right of the Palestinian people to a homeland."

The statement, issued in Paris, said that the EEC countries hoped that the "will for peace" which had led President Jimmy Carter of the United States to "engage himself personally in negotiations can be given practical form soon in a comprehensive agreement in which all the parties, including representatives of the Palestinian people, would participate and to which the international community could give its endorsement."

The statement added: "the nine (EEC members) express the hope that all parties concerned will avoid any statement or action which will impede the search for peace, such as the Israeli policy of settlements in the occupied territories."

"While a difficult road remains before the implementation of United Nations Resolution 242 on all fronts, the nine consider that the peace treaty (between Israel and Egypt) constitutes a correct application of the principles of that resolution."

The joint statement said that the EEC member countries "followed with the greatest attention" the negotiations that led to the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty.

They were "fully appreciative of the will for peace" shown by the three parties involved, including the United States, the text added.

"They recall that as they said in their declaration of 29 June, 1977, the establishment of a just and lasting peace can only take place in the framework of a comprehensive settlement. Such a settlement must be based on U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338.

"In this context, they take due note of the will of the signatories to consider this (treaty) as a first step in the direction of a comprehensive settlement designed to end thirty years of hostility," the EEC statement said.

PLO OFFICIAL CALLS FOR REVIVING EASTERN FRONT

JN241719 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1115 GMT 24 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-Jawad Salah, PLO Executive Committee member, has called on the Arab nation to implement the Baghdad summit resolutions, and to take action to revive the Eastern Front and insure the conditions for steadfastness and practical confrontation.

Salah praised the uprising of our people in the occupied land. These people gave the most splendid examples in the confrontation of the liquidationist agreements and rejection of civil self-rule which legalizes the Zionist occupation and deprives the Palestinian people of the simplest human right of determining their future.

Salah said that Iraq, Syria, Jordan and the PLO are capable of playing a positive and important role in the actual confrontation to foil the fiercest plot to which the Arab nation has been exposed.

Salah appealed to the United Nations and world bodies to make the utmost efforts to stop the operations of (?mass killing), to protect the detainees from torture, and to stop the humiliating collective punishment on the inhabitants of the towns and villages. He called for sending a fact-finding committee to investigate several murders committed during and after the U.S. President's visit to occupied Palestine.

'ARAFAT SPEAKS ON MIDEAST TREATY, PALESTINIAN ACTION

JN261420 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1338 GMT 26 Mar 79 JN

[Excerpts] Beirut, 26 March--PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said that the revolution's reply to the treaty of humiliation and slavery that the ruler of Egypt is signing is to continue the revolution and to escalate its operations and sweeping, mass Arab uprising.

The Palestinian leader, who was speaking during the opening ceremony of one of the revolution's military courses, stressed that the Arab nation will not kneel like As-Sadat and that the Palestinian revolution will remain the Arab nation's spearhead and fighting force and the difficult and essential figure in the equation.

He asserted that the Arab nation will shatter the new alliance among Begin, Carter and As-Sadat in the same way as the region's peoples shattered CENTO, despite all the tanks, aircraft and huge forces at this disposal.

'Arafat asked: What kind of peace is this whereby Washington pays $5 billion in military aid?

Referring to his meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko in Damascus, he said that the meeting was very successful.

In reply to threats by the enemy and by U.S. imperialism, 'Arafat said that the revolution threatens and is not threatened.

'ARAFAT COMMENTS ON REACTION TO PEACE TREATY, THREAT TO AS-SADAT

AU261325 Vienna KURIER in German 24 Mar 79 p 3 AU

[Manuel Ostos report on 'exclusive' KURIER interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, in Algiers--date not given--"As-Sadat Will Soon Be Dead"]

[Text] PLO Chief Yasir 'Arafat has declared in an exclusive interview with KURIER that he expects an assassination of Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat in the very near future. Speaking with the KURIER correspondent in Algiers, the PLO chief said: "You know that it should not be long before As-Sadat is killed by his own people." According to 'Arafat, the Palestinians and their Arab allies intend to give the fathers of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty a number of concrete political answers. Thus, the PLO claims to have obtained firm guarantees from several oil states that they will use the "oil weapon" against some unspecified Western countries.

'Arafat also expects a new, united military front against Israel along the Jordan-Syria border, and the complete political isolation of Egypt within the Arab world. Cairo's expulsion from the Arab League is under consideration, as is its ouster from the nonalined movement. He himself--'Arafat said--has always stood for the reconvening of a Geneva Middle East conference, but this plan was "boycotted by Carter and As-Sadat."

After his meeting with King Husayn, the relations between the PLO and Jordan are now "obviously correct," he said, adding that the meeting promised to submit to all Arab world resolutions against Egypt. 'Arafat used a far more cautious formulation when referring to Saudi Arabia's readiness to do the same, but he declared that the desert kingdom would decisively expand its financial support for the PLO after the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli pact.

WEST BANK MUNICIPALITIES, ORGANIZATIONS ISSUE STATEMENT

JN270907 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 27 Mar 79 JN

[Text of statement issued by municipalities and popular and professional organizations in the West Bank on 26 March]

[Text] Since As-Sadat's treacherous initiative, our Palestinian people and the Arab nation have faced a serious conspiracy against the Palestinian and Arab cause and the national liberation cause in the whole world. Because of their unity, solidarity and nobility, our people have succeeded in uncovering and revealing this conspiracy from the beginning, foiling the conspiratorial initiative, and confronting its methods out of fear of its results. The Palestinian people have expressed their opinion on this initiative through various memoranda and methods available to them. There is doubt that the Palestinian people reject the initiative and all its effects beginning with the Camp David agreements and ending with the document on the separate peace and the defeatist capitulation which will be signed today, Monday. The firm and clear position of our Palestinian people has not been sufficient to stop the conspirators and have them respect the peoples' will. Blinded by their interests and their hostile intentions to implement their conspiratorial schemes, the plotters believe that the people ignore what they are doing.

The plotters are not heeding past experiences, the latest of which has been the upheaval of the Iranian people. This proves that they will have the same fate, from which there is no escape.

Through their national institutions in the occupied territories; out of their conviction in their national, pan-Arab, historic and Islamic rights; and proceeding from the principle of upholding these rights so that they can fulfill their objectives, our Palestinian people will uncover all hostile, treacherous plans. They call on world public opinion to stand firmly by their side against these base conspiracies so that a just and lasting peace will be established in Palestine. This will avoid more wars and bloodshed.

Our Palestinian people stress that As-Sadat's conspiratorial initiative has been from the start the implementation of an imperialist scheme. This scheme was shaken as a result of the struggle of our Palestinian people under the leadership of their sole and legitimate representative, the PLO, which has become the base of the liberation struggle, whether on the Arab or international level, and which has also succeeded thanks to its nobility and the fairness of its cause to proceed and bring the Palestinian people's cause to an advanced position on the level of international priorities. Evidence of this is [words indistinct] the United Nations, the Geneva conferences and the latest Soviet-U.S. statement which reaffirmed the Palestinian people's right to their soil and homeland. As a result of this success, it was only natural that imperialism, with the United States at its head [word indistinct] implement their conspiracies with the hope of checking any progress toward a just and lasting peace in Palestine.

In light of the above mentioned, we would like to point out the following:

1. The United States has ignored the international framework for achieving a just and lasting peace in Palestine. This violates UN principles and international norms.

2. By adopting his initiative, As-Sadat has ignored the Arab nation's will and has deviated from the Arab course which seeks to regain the just Arab rights in occupied Palestine.

3. The three parties--Begin, Carter and As-Sadat--are seeking to fulfill their political objectives. These parties are proceeding swiftly toward forming a military and political pact which will oppose the aspirations of our Palestinian people and the Arab nation and will constitute a base in favor of imperialism with Israel as its main pillar and As-Sadat's Egypt as its support.

These are the true reasons behind the three parties ignoring the Palestinian people's legitimate rights represented in a full military withdrawal from our territories and the removal of settlements; the return of Arab Jerusalem to its owners; the exercise by the Palestinian people of their right to self-determination, to establish their free, independent state on their national soil and to fully recover all their legitimate rights. The latest agreement has stressed the hostile intentions and practices of the three parties--the United States, Israel and Egypt. These parties have conspiratorial intentions against our Palestinian people, who have the right to their land and homeland.

The following is evidence of this conspiracy:

1. Statements by Begin, Dayan and Weizman rejecting the establishment of a Palestinian state;

2. The military pacts between Israel and the United States and the huge financial compensation for the construction of settlements and military bases to deal blows to our Palestinian people and to our Arab nation;

3. The statements by As-Sadat and various officials in his regime about the need to arm themselves against liberation movements in the world; and

4. The complete ignoring of all Palestinian, Arab and international reactions and the continuation of the conspiratorial scheme against the will of our great people.

We reaffirm the position of our Palestinian people based on their insistence on their just national rights, and we declare the following:

1. We denounce and reject As-Sadat's initiative, the Camp David agreements and all its results, particularly the latest agreement.

2. We fully adhere to the national unity of our Palestinian Arab people under the leadership of their sole and legitimate representative, the PLO.

3. We fully and sincerely support the resolutions of the conference of the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation and those of the Baghdad summit conference.

4. The withdrawal of Israeli troops from the occupied territories, the removal of settlements, the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and establishing their free and independent state on their homeland, and the recovery of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights should be the bases for a just, lasting and sound peace.

5. We categorically reject the autonomy plan in all its forms and we consider it a U.S.-Israeli conspiracy to legalize the occupation and enable it to achieve its objectives against our Palestinian people and our Arab nation, thus threatening a just peace.

6. We call on the countries which attended the Baghdad summit conference and the conference of steadfastness and confrontation to supplement their resolutions in order to confront the conspiracy. We also appeal to the Arab nation to stand against the conspiracy which is threatening its existence and unity.

QADDUMI MEETS CUBAN, SENEGALESE AMBASSADORS IN BEIRUT

JN241648 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT 24 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, received at noon today the Cuban and Senegalese ambassadors in Beirut individually. The discussions dealt with the latest developments in the area in light of the signing of the capitulatory peace agreement between the Egyptian regime and the Zionist entity and with the negative effects of signing such a treaty. The meeting also dealt with bilateral relations between the PLO, Cuba and Senegal and the position of the Senegalese contingent participating in the UNIFIL forces in southern Lebanon.

KUWAIT

AMIR REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN CAUSE

LD261258 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1210 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD

[Excerpts] Kuwait 26 Mar, KUNA--Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah today reaffirmed the support of Kuwait for the Palestinian cause and said that trials should not lead Arabs to despair. This apparent hint to the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty was made by the amir during his meeting with a delegation of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, which offered him a knitted cloth map of Palestine.

Shaykh Jabir also underlined the importance of inter-Arab solidarity and cohesion, which, he said, constitute the best way of warding off Arab dangers.

DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST PEACE TREATY HELD

LD261300 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1219 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 26 Mar, KUNA--Demonstrations and marches were organized today in Kuwait in protest against the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, due to be signed this afternoon in Washington. Most participants in the demonstrations held in the capital of al-Kuwait, in Al-Fuhayhil and in Al Halq Ahmadi, south of the city, were students and youth.

One of the marches passes before the Egyptian Embassy, denouncing President Anwar as-Sadat of Egypt for concluding a peace treaty with Israel under the patronage of the United States.

On the other hand, demonstrations, marches and rallies are expected to be held tomorrow, with the participants of popular committees and organizations.

SAUDI ARABIA

CABINET REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO BAGHDAD SUMMIT RESOLUTIONS

LD261956 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Riyadh--The Council of Ministers met this evening under His Royal Highness 'Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard.

After the meeting, Information Minister Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani stated that the Council of Ministers has concentrated on reviewing the current Arab situation and the kingdom's attitude toward the circumstances through which the Arab nation is passing. He added that the Council heard reports from the foreign minister and the minister of finance and economy on the agenda of the conference of Arab foreign and finance ministers which is due to begin in Baghdad tomorrow.

Yamani added that the Council of Ministers stressed that the developments which have taken place so far with regard to current Arab issues were taken into consideration at the Baghdad summit. The council also stressed the importance of adhering to the well-known and declared stands of the kingdom in this respect. The council directed the foreign minister and the minister of finance and economy to stress the kingdom's commitment to the resolutions of the Baghdad summit.

FOREIGN MINISTER CALLS FOR 'BOLSTERING' ARAB LEAGUE

LD261056 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 26 March--Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal has called for the preservation of the Arab League and bolstering it by all means to enable it to perform its role particularly at the present time.

In a statement to the newspaper AN-NADWAH, published here today, Prince Sa'ud expressed his regret at the resignation of Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad, adding: I hope he will withdraw his resignation.

His highness praised the outcome of the Arab League meetings in Mogadiscio, saying that a number of constructive resolutions affecting vital issues have been taken.

Asked what the kingdom's position would be at the forthcoming Baghdad conference, Prince Sa'ud said that Saudi Arabia will work to serve the Arab interest at the conference.

The Saudi foreign minister returned home last night from Mogadiscio, where he had headed the kingdom's delegation to the 71st session of the Arab League Council which ended yesterday.

PRINCE FAHD REPORTEDLY REFUSES TO MEET AS-SADAT IN SPAIN

JN261102 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 26 Mar 79 p 13 JN

[Text] Madrid--Arab sources have revealed that Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi Arabia's deputy prime minister, rejected President as-Sadat's suggestion that the two hold a meeting in Spain before As-Sadat continued his trip to Washington in order to sign the agreement.

The Arab sources added that Crown Prince Fahd's refusal caused As-Sadat to change his mind and to cancel his stopover in Spain.

COMORAN PRESIDENT, DELEGATION ARRIVE IN JIDDA 24 MAR

LD241920 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1810 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD

[Excerpts] Jidda, 24 March--President Ahmed Abdallah of the Federal and Islamic Republic of the Comoros arrived in Jidda this evening on a week's visit to the Saudi Arabian Kingdom. He is accompanied by a delegation consisting of the ministers of foreign affairs, social affairs, health, education, finance, economy and planning.

UAE

FEDERAL NATIONAL COUNCIL DISCUSSES PEACE TREATY

JN261414 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1340 GMT 26 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 26 March--The Federal National Council held an emergency session today under Speaker Taryam 'Umran Taryam to discuss a proposal submitted by council member Muhammad al-Basti, in which he condemned and denounced the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. The council later referred the proposal to the council governing body to take action in light of debates among several members on the subject.

Tarim said: There should be a way to express our position against this treaty and the popular will of our Arab nation and masses. He said this is a great pan-Arab issue that concerns the Arab nation and that "we are an important part of this nation." He added: We must adopt a position to express the views of our council and Arab people under the critical circumstances through which our nation is passing.

FRENCH INDUSTRY MINISTER GIRAUD ARRIVES WITH MESSAGE 24 MAR

JN250753 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1832 GMT 24 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 24 March--Andre Giraud, French minister of industry, arrived here tonight from Riyadh on a 1-day visit to the UAE.

During his visit, the French minister will deliver a message to His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, from French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, dealing with bilateral relations.

Giraud's Departure

JN251550 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1440 GMT 25 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 25 March--Andre Giraud, French industry minister, left today after a visit to the UAE during which he delivered a message from French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

He was seen off at the airport by Sa'id ad-Darmaki, chief of protocol, and Jean-Claude Guisset, French ambassador in Abu Dhabi.

YEMEN--YAR

PRESIDENT SALIH MAKES THREE NEW APPOINTMENTS

Adviser to President

JN241814 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Mar 79 JN

[Unnumbered presidential decree]

[Text] Article I: Lt Col 'Ali Salih ash-Shaybah shall be appointed adviser to the commander in chief of the armed forces.

Article II: This decree shall be effective from the date it is issued and shall be published in the official and military gazettes.

Issued at the Republican Palace on 24 March 1979.

[Signed] Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces.

Chief of General Staff

JN241815 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Mar 79 JN

[Unnumbered presidential decree]

[Text] Article I: Lt Col 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Barati shall be appointed chief of the General Staff of the armed forces.

Article II: This decree shall be effective from the date it is issued and shall be published in the official and military gazettes.

Issued at the Republican Palace on 24 March 1979.

[Signed] Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces.

Governor, Commander of Ma'rib Province

JN241817 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Mar 79 JN

[Unnumbered presidential decree]

[Text] Article I: Lt Col Husayn Sharaf al-Kibsi shall be appointed governor and commander of Ma'rib province.

Article II: This decree shall be effective from the date it is issued and shall be published in the official gazette.

Issued at the Republican Palace on 24 March 1979.

[Signed] Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces; 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister.

PRESIDENT SALIH RECEIVES PDRY MINISTERS

JN261812 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Mar 79 JN

[Excerpts] Brother Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, received in his office in the presidential palace at 1030 today brother Muhammad Salih Muti and 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Wali, foreign affairs and planning ministers in the southern part of the homeland, following their arrival in San'a' this morning.

During the meeting, a discussion was held on the special arrangements pertaining to the bilateral summit conference between the two parts of Yemen to be held in Kuwait.

In a statement to the SABA' NEWS AGENCY, brother Muhammad Salih Muti said: This visit is for the purpose of meeting with our brothers in San'a' to prepare and pave the way for the summit meeting between the two Yemeni leaders. He affirmed the importance of this meeting and added: We expect the meeting to emerge with results in the interests of both North and South Yemen in light of the Arab League meeting resolutions and the agreements and contacts held between the two parts of Yemen.

Brother Muhammad Salih Muti added: The issue of the Yemeni people's unity will be the major issue in the talks between Presidents 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il. Brother Muti said: The realization of Yemeni unity will ward off much suffering and many problems from which the Yemeni people have suffered. Unity will work for Yemen's stability and hence stability in the region.

The brother foreign minister from the southern part of the homeland added that the Yemeni people will foil all conspiracies that are against their interests and that impede their unity march, in order to bring about Yemen's progress and development.

PRESIDENT AS-SADAT SIGNS PEACE TREATY WITH ISRAEL

NC262021 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1920 GMT 26 Mar 79 NC

[Excerpt] Washington, 26 March--At 2100 Cairo time President Anwar as-Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin signed the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, which will stem the flows of blood and financial expenditure that have been going on in the Middle East for 30 years and herald the beginning of a new shining stage of a creative and civilized struggle.

U.S. President Jimmy Carter participated in the signing as a witness. President Carter exerted the greatest possible human efforts to attain this result within 16 months and 7 days--the period that has elapsed since the start of the historic peace treaty on 19 November 1977.

The signing ceremonies were held at a large, historic ceremony held on the White House lawn in Washington, where an enormous tent was set up. At a semicircular table in the tent sat President Carter, with President as-Sadat to his right and Menahem Begin to his left.

The signing ceremony was attended by 1200 guests, including all members of Congress and members of the U.S. administration.

As-Sadat Dinner Speech

NC270735 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 27 Mar 79 NC

[Excerpt] Yesterday evening, U.S. President Jimmy Carter gave a dinner at the White House in honor of President Anwar as-Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin and the members of the official delegations which participated in the negotiations. President Carter, President as-Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Begin delivered speeches.

In his speech, President as-Sadat said that the success of the negotiations on the West Bank and Gaza depends to a great extent on the ability of all sides to rise to the level of events and show good will. Above all else, it depends on a U.S. role. He added that President Carter had promised him that he would spare no effort to insure the success of these efforts.

Press Comment

NC270825 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0706 GMT 27 Mar 79 NC

[Press review]

[Excerpts] Cairo, 27 March--The news of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel occupies the front pages and most of the inside pages of the Cairo papers today. The three Cairo dailies devote their entire front pages to banner and other headlines summing up the treaty signing ceremony, the treaty provisions and Arab and world reaction to it and the speech which President Anwar as-Sadat delivered after the signing of the treaty in Washington yesterday.

The papers publish on their front pages pictures of President Anwar as-Sadat, U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin signing the treaty.

The following are the main headlines of the three dailies: AL-AHRAM: "The first step on the path of peace after 30 years of war," "Self-rule does not stem from the Israeli will and we will not accept that the rights of the Palestinians be disregarded," "The ban on political activities in the West Bank and Gaza will be lifted and the Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons will be released."

AL-AKHBAR: "Blessed be the peace," "Withdrawal from Al-'Arish after 2 months and from the oil fields after 7 months," and "No privileges or preferences to Israel under any circumstances."

AL-JUMHURIYAH: "As-Sadat asserts the right of the Palestinian people to establish their homeland" and "Immediate negotiations to define the powers of the Palestinian government."

AL-AHRAM and AL-AKHBAR publish press inquiries reflecting citizens' support for the treaty. AL-AHRAM publishes a four-page supplement today entitled "The Peace Document." The supplement includes the provisions of the treaty and its annexes and a colored map explaining them. The supplement also includes a review of the progress of the Arab-Israeli conflict from May 1948 to March 1979 and a number of pictures reflecting the history of this conflict.

The three Cairo dailies comment today on the dimensions of the peace treaty and its effects on the solution of the Middle East problem. AL-AHRAM says: By signing the peace treaty yesterday Egypt has completed an important and basic part of the strategy which it began more than 6 years ago to achieve the goal of liberating the occupied territories, establishing a durable just peace and restoring the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people.

Commenting on the same subject, AL-JUMHURIYAH says: The real test of peace in the Middle East begins today. The Egyptian people will be able to determine the sincerity of Israeli intentions and whether there is a true intention to implement in letter and spirit the articles and provisions of the peace agreement, or whether it will suffer the fate of the 1949 armistice agreement and what followed. The paper adds: The Egyptian people will weigh every Israeli action to ascertain whether it actually conforms to the spirit of peace. It says: What has been achieved in the mission of peace is only a step on a long road. The real big step--the tackling of the Palestinian issue, which is the core of the conflict--will come next. In conclusion, AL-JUMHURIYAH expresses the hope that the Arabs will realize that if the first step was taken by Egypt alone, then the next step must involve them as well.

AL-AKHBAR says: The peace treaty we signed yesterday is not all the peace we want or cherish. It is not the ultimate goal, but a beginning which will be followed by other steps leading to a comprehensive peace consolidating security and stability in the entire Middle East on the basis of right and justice.

Ghali Defense of Treaty

LD270949 Paris LE MONDE in French 27 Mar 79 pp 1, 22 LD

[J.-P. Peroncel-Hugoz interview with Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali: "Success Depends on the Fulfillment of Palestinian Aspirations"--date and place not given]

[Text] [Question] You were one of the strongest advocates of the idea of forming a link between the evacuation of Sinai and Palestinian autonomy. What do you think of the absence of that link in the treaty?

[Answer] No link? What do you mean? We are signing two treaties with Israel simultaneously--on the one hand the agreement on Sinai and on the other the agreement, in the form of an exchange of letters, on the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip--which, in their respective texts, stipulate that they are based on the Camp David agreements which refer to UN Resolutions 242 and 338 providing for the evacuation of the territories occupied in 1967. Under the terms of the peace treaties, the negotiations which are to establish the precise timetable for autonomy in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will of necessity start 1 month after the treaties are ratified. The negotiating period will therefore be 12 months. After a fairly short period--9 months to be exact--we are to establish the diplomatic relations to which the Jewish state attaches so much importance.

Also under the terms of the peace agreements preliminary negotiations on the normalization of Egyptian-Israeli relations in all other fields--a normalization to which Israel also attaches great importance--should start 6 months after the first stage of the evacuation of Sinai (the whole section of the peninsula west of a line Al-'Arish and Ras Muhammad) which should, in the normal course of events, be completed 9 months after ratification of the peace treaties.

Therefore, everything hinges on this crucial period of 9-15 months after the two treaties have been signed: Egyptian-Israeli normalization will become a reality at approximately the same time as conditions enabling the creation of the autonomous Palestinian administration are established. If you cannot see the link between those two operations, well.... It is blatantly obvious.

[Question] You talk of the "two treaties" signed simultaneously; but the second is only an exchange of letters....

[Answer] Yes, but it is binding in international law as a treaty in the strict sense of the term. History contains a host of determining agreements based on exchanges of letters: the Franco-Russian alliance which drew France out of its isolation after the 1870 war, the creation of the international emergency force in Egypt after the French-British-Israeli attack in 1956, and so forth.

[Question] Do you at least have an assurance that the United States will help you all it can in your task?

[Answer] The exchange of letters quite clearly provides for full U.S. participation in applying the Egyptian-Israeli agreement on the future of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. The Americans have as much to gain as we do from the success of the peace, which depends on the fulfillment of Palestinian aspirations.

Finally Removing Israel's "Block"

[Question] Does everything not suggest that the Palestinians and Israelis are less willing than ever to make your task easier?

[Answer] Just make the initial improvements in the Palestinians' lot in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip apparent, and you will see the opinion of many Palestinians and many other Arabs gradually evolving in favor of our ideas. The French, Russian and Spanish interpretation of Resolution 242 stating the need to evacuate "the" and not "some" occupied territories has been upheld in the case of Sinai. Now, the treaty's preamble specifies that the Egyptian-Israeli agreements will form a basis for settlements with "all" Israel's "other neighbors"--which therefore includes the Palestinians. Why should the French version of Resolution 242 not be applied to them too?

Moreover, we will continue to maintain contacts with Palestinians in various quarters. If we do not succeed in including some of them in our delegation to future talks with Israel, we will constantly heed the Palestinian people's wishes.

As for the Israelis, there is a chance that peace with Egypt will finally start to remove their psychological block once and for all. Nonetheless, we are fully aware that the next stage in the negotiations, which will start 1 month after ratifying the treaty, will be riddled with much more complex obstacles than those we have overcome since President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem in November 1977.

But the real danger lies in an escalation of mutual provocations between Israel and certain Arabs, which would strengthen the psychological block which exists among the Israeli "rejectionists" and those on the Palestinian side.

[Question] Surely your main task in the short term will be to appease the wrath of the majority of Arab leaders, of which the Arab League secretary general's resignation is another manifestation?

[Answer] First, Mahmud Riyad did not leave the league in protest against the treaty but because inter-Arab divisions are such that he felt he could no longer accomplish his mission, which was based on the search for Arab unity. Second, I would like to paraphrase what the ECONOMIST wrote in 1962 when there was talk of Egypt leaving the league following Syrian accusations: "22 minus 1 equals zero." (LE MONDE editor's note: the pan-Arab organization has 22 members). The Arab League can only make important decisions unanimously, but in any case we still have faithful friends there. On the other hand, what would become of the league without the Egyptians, who are the mainstays of most of its bodies and institutions?

[Question] What is the Saudi attitude to Egypt?

[Answer] Only a Marcel Proust could decipher the feelings behind certain political stances. However, we have received messages suggesting that the oil-producing countries will continue to honor their pledges to us. (LE MONDE editor's note: Riyadh has notably promised to finance new equipment for the Egyptian Army.

[Question] And King Husayn of Jordan?

[Answer] He should remember that between 1948 and 1950 the Hashemites of Amman and Baghdad vehemently opposed Cairo's desire--as early as that--to create a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza. The compromise reached then was to give the West Bank to the Kingdom of Transjordan and to give Gaza the job of representing the Palestinians in the Arab League--which was effective until 1963. If it proves necessary to the evolution of the present situation, the Gaza Palestinians could now be given a leading role temporarily.

[Question] Do you expect support from the international community?

[Answer] The UN Security Council, to which the Soviet Union belongs, will be asked to endorse the Egyptian-Israeli agreements. An arrangement might therefore be possible between the two superpowers which would gradually remove Moscow's prejudices with regard to the choices made at Camp David. Moreover, we might propose the formation of an international monitoring committee to guarantee free elections in the West Bank and in Gaza in which various leading figures, especially in Europe, could play a very useful role.

[Question] What do you think of the French reservations about the treaty?

[Answer] We still hope that France will be persuaded to help the effective application of the peace treaty when we reach the final stage of negotiations on a global settlement in the Middle East.

EGYPT ANNOUNCES 'FREEZE' IN ARAB LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

NC271044 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0901 GMT 27 Mar 79 NC

[Unattributed "statement"]

[Text] In these historic and decisive moments in the struggle of the Egyptian people--who are waging a long, fierce battle in defense of the rights of the Arab nation and the Palestinian people--our people have achieved a new victory which will buttress their continuing struggle under the banner of their loyal national leadership. Regarding the nervous moves being made by some people to hold conferences contrary to Arab legitimacy for personal and party purposes, the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, within the context of Egypt's historical responsibilities toward the Arab nation, puts the following facts before the entire Arab nation:

1. Proceeding from its firm principles, Egypt has borne and will continue to bear its great responsibilities of defending the Arab causes at all times and all places--either the responsibility of fighting foreign imperialism which has stayed on the Arab soil for long periods, or the responsibility of warding off the Israeli aggressions to which the Arab people and their territories were subjected throughout the past 30 years.

2. In the Palestinian issue, the Arab nation faced a long and complicated conflict. Egypt was and still is in the forefront, making unlimited sacrifices and willingly offering innocent martyrs, reducing its people's livelihood and sacrificing efforts and blood not only in defense of its national soil but also in defense of the rights of the Palestinian people and the fraternal Arab peoples. For this purpose, Egypt engaged in a series of military and political confrontations which culminated in the great October war and the historic peace initiative.

3. Egypt had the honor of advocating the Arab nation's aims first and of carrying the banner of the work for their sake throughout the protracted period of the Arab-Israeli conflict. These aims sought to achieve the following:

A. Recognition of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people and the translation of these facts into practice.

B. Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967.

4. Egypt, which acted conscientiously and effectively in handling the political and military conflict and which sought to mobilize all international and regional factors and developments in the service of the Arab aims, has succeeded in concluding a peace agreement within the framework of the comprehensive solution of the Middle East problem in order to achieve the Arab aims agreed upon in the Rabat resolutions and implement what the Arab nation unanimously accepted in UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Egypt has achieved the following:

A. It has achieved a complete Israeli withdrawal from Sinai. Further, it has established the principle of withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories within the framework of the comprehensive settlement and put this principle in the stage of implementation.

B. It has succeeded in obtaining recognition from Israel that it is necessary that the settlement lead to the realization of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and that it is also necessary that their representatives participate in the various stages of the negotiations on solving all aspects of the Palestinian problem. Egypt has also obtained a U.S. pledge to participate in the various stages of the negotiations to achieve a comprehensive solution and just settlement of the Palestinian problem.

5. Egypt deems it necessary to warn those who want to destroy the edifice of the Arab League and invalidate the agreed upon framework for the joint Arab action of the stupidity of their actions, which will only lead to wasting Arab capabilities and weakening the ability of the Arab nation and its peoples to regain the usurped rights. Egypt stresses that those who claim to be trying to isolate it are only isolating themselves from their peoples and Arab nation, which know Egypt's value and appreciate Egypt's uninterrupted struggle for the sake of Arabism and Islam.

6. In confronting these attempts to paralyze the Arab League Charter and destroy Arab legitimacy, and in shouldering its responsibilities toward the aspirations and aims of its Arab nation, Egypt announces the freezing of its activities in the Arab League until the day when wisdom prevails over emotionalism and seriousness over irresponsibility. Egypt will remain loyal to the national aims of the Arab nation. It will proceed strongly and firmly along the path leading to a comprehensive, just and durable peace in the Middle East based on the liberation of the occupied Arab territories and a just settlement of the Palestinian issue--a peace which will enable the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination.

DELEGATE CAUTIONS ARAB LEAGUE AGAINST EXPULSION RESOLUTION

NC262056 Cairo MENA in English 1750 GMT 26 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Mogadiscio, Somalia, March 26--(MENA)--Egypt cautioned the other Arab countries today against any Arab League resolution to expel Egypt from its membership or to pull the league headquarters out of Egypt.

Tahsin Bashir, Egypt's permanent league delegate, told the Arab League Council session in the Somali capital today that if some Arab countries persisted in their efforts to pull down the league, Egypt would have another attitude. He added that any such resolution would be void of legitimacy and Egypt would not fear it or recognize it.

Egypt could never and can never be isolated from the rest of the Arab world, he said. Egypt will always be the firm rock of Arab action. He said that some Arab countries are capitalizing on Arab differences for partisan or regional gains. This is being done, he added, at a time when the Arabs are more than ever in need of solidarity.

Tahsin Bashir said that those who were attacking Egypt were using intellectual terrorism to turn an emotional state into a reckless political trend that would ultimately destroy the Arab League. The Arab League Council session, he said, coincided with 34th anniversary of the league, during which time Egypt spared no sacrifice in the service of Arab causes.

COMMENTARY ASKS PALESTINIANS TO REASSESS STAND

NC231530 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Mar 79 NC

[Hasan al-'Ashmawi commentary: "Has the Time Come for the Palestinians To Reassess Their Calculations After the Signing of the Peace Treaty?"]

[Excerpts] There is no doubt that when the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty is signed in Washington on Monday, the Middle East will have entered a new phase and opened another new page in which the call for peace which President as-Sadat made with rare courage will have triumphed and our great army will be at the climax of its immortal October War triumph over Sinai.

The signing of the treaty, which represents an indivisible part of a comprehensive peace, will give the Palestinians, for the first time in history, the chance of a realistic solution to their problem and a dignified life without pressure from anyone. It will also give them the chance of legal, political and administrative autonomy over their territory, which will ultimately lead to self-determination and the establishment of the Palestinian state.

The Palestinian issue is now at a serious crossroads: The time has come for the Palestinians to reconsider their stands, to depend on themselves to solve all their fateful issues, to do all they can to stop the exploitation of the Palestinian issue by some of the Arab leaderships and to expel from their leaderships anyone who cooperates with the enemies of the Palestinian issue in particular and Arab issues in general.

It is only by accurate comparison between what Egypt has done for the Palestinian issue and what the rancorous rejectionists have done and are doing that we could arrive at the following facts:

1. No one dares to deny that Egypt is the only Arab confrontation state that has not raised its arms against the Palestinians or bloodied its hands with their blood.

2. No one can deny Egypt's sacrifice for the sake of Palestine or that it has paid with blood and money the tax of sacrifice for Palestine and all the Arabs.

3. Egypt has never changed its position or principles on Palestine, and the entire world can attest to this. The peace talks almost foundered a number of times on the rock of Egypt's strong insistence on the rights of the Palestinian peoples in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The time has come for the leaders of the Palestinian people and the leaders of the organizations which have sold themselves to the devil to realize that the front on which they have depended, the rejectionist front, is incapable of doing anything for the Palestinian issue except to parrot empty slogans, because it cannot wage war, which is the only alternative to the policy of obtaining Arab rights by peaceful means.

Since Egypt believes that the signing of the peace treaty does not mean that we have eradicated the conditions and problems which we have inherited over 30 years, it asks the Palestinian people to reassess their calculations and to discuss their present and future. It asks them to ask themselves whether it is in the Palestinian national interest to reject the chance presented by the existence of a draft treaty, which is ready for signature, and calls for negotiations on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip preliminary to self-determination after 5 years, or to leave themselves to the whims of the rejectionist front which is incapable of achieving its objectives.

KING HUSAYN ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD, HOLDS TALKS

JN261706 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 26 March--King Husayn of Jordan arrived here this evening on a visit of several days at the invitation of President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr. King Husayn was accorded a large official reception at Baghdad International Airport. He was received by President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, Revolution Command Council members, ministers, several high-ranking officials, senior officers, and the heads of diplomatic missions accredited to Iraq.

Talks With Al-Bakr

JN262020 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1945 GMT 26 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 26 March--Official talks between President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan began at the republican palace in Baghdad this evening. At atmosphere of deep understanding and cordiality prevailed during the talks. Bilateral relations and the most important issues in the Arab arena were discussed.

The talks were attended on the Iraqi side by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and minister of housing and reconstructions; Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hammadi; and the Iraqi ambassador to Jordan. On the Jordanian side they were attended by Chief of the Royal Court Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, Minister of Court 'Amir Khammash, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hasan Ibrahim, and the Jordanian charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Amman Radio Talks

JN270654 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 27 Mar 79 JN

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn met with Iraqi President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr at the presidential palace in Baghdad last night. They made a comprehensive review of developments in the area and assessed the Arab and international situations. They also discussed ways to cope with the current challenges and their eventualities. The Jordanian and Iraqi sides agreed to consolidate joint Arab action and intensify efforts to build an intrinsic Arab power to serve the pan-Arab issues and joint goals.

Meeting With Saddam Husayn

JN270843 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 27 Mar 79 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 27 March--Revolution Command Council Vice Chairman Saddam Husayn and His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal of Jordan held a closed meeting this morning at his majesty's residence in As-Salah Palace in Baghdad. During the meeting they discussed relations between the two fraternal countries and the latest developments in the situation in the Arab area.

DEMONSTRATORS IN BAGHDAD DENOUNCE PEACE TREATY

JN270823 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 27 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 27 March--Well over 1 million demonstrators shouted together early this morning "No to treason and no to capitulation."

Afterwards, the demonstrators roamed the squares of the Iraqi capital denouncing the signing by the enemy of the Arab nation, As-Sadat, of the document of treason and humiliation. The demonstrators expressed absolute rejection of the signing by the Egyptian ruler of the document of enslavement whose aim is the total subjugation of Egypt to the imperialist and Zionist enemies of the Arabs.

The demonstrators emphasized that the conspiracy will not succeed and that As-Sadat and the traitors of the Arab nation will not escape the punishment of the masses. They also shouted "Woe to the traitors of the Arab nation" and "Long live the heroism of our Arab people in Egypt."

ATH-THAWRAH DENOUNCES AS-SADAT, CALLS FOR UNITED OPPOSITION

JN261448 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 26 Mar 79 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 26 March--The newspaper ATH-THAWRAH says today that when the treaty of treason and humiliation has been signed there will be no intermediate position between the patriot and the traitor, between those who stand by As-Sadat as a ruler, his regime and policy and those who do not. The paper said: The future stage--following the treaty--will be more serious and difficult than those preceding. This stage will require more accurate and more comprehensive planning and will demand a clear, accurate and profound classification of those who stand heart and soul with the Arab nation and in its trench and those who stand on the side of its enemies and against Arab interests and aims.

In an article published today, ATH-THAWRAH, the central organ of the Ba'th Party, says that this classification must work in such a way that all those who support and back As-Sadat and all who cover for him or justify his deed, his stands and his behavior will be placed in the category of traitors, whether rulers, regimes or whatever.

The paper goes on to say: Those who continue to give funds to As-Sadat are traitors; those who supply arms and funds to buy arms for As-Sadat are traitors; those who do not boycott the Egyptian ruler economically and politically are traitors; and those who agree to the agreements signed by the Egyptian ruler are also traitors. This is the line that will separate patriotism from treason and these are the concepts of treason and patriotism. Such are the bases for our relations with all Arab rulers, without exception. This is the correct path, because our battle to restore our territories, preserve our rights and repulse the enemy offensive is a battle for our very existence. The difficult path chosen by the Arab nation is the path of confrontation, the path of existence or nonexistence.

The paper emphasizes that the Ba'th Party, its revolution in Iraq, and all the Arab people and countries will be able to cause As-Sadat's treason and crime to boomerang and to turn all the papers, documents, supplements and treaties signed by him into documents of denunciation, condemnation and anger, which will strike the treasonous regime itself, lead to its downfall and bring Egypt back to the Arab fold.

ACTING PREMIER RECEIVES ENVOYS OF SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

JN261756 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Mar 79 JN

[Excerpts] At the prime minister's office today, 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, acting prime minister and foreign minister, received the ambassadors of those states that are members of the UN Security Council's current session.

Abu 'Awbah reviewed the reasons that prompted Jordan to submit the draft of Resolution 446, carried by a majority of votes and without opposition by the Security Council a few days ago. Abu 'Awdah said that Jordan was and still is anxious to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. But at the same time, Jordan does not hide from the world the fact that the present situation in the occupied territories has become extremely serious and that Israel's continued policy of establishing settlements and creating fait accomplis in the Arab territories is contrary to the international community's will and in violation of the fourth Geneva agreement on the protection of civilians and their property in a state of belligerency.

The acting prime minister and foreign minister expressed Jordan's concern and that of the Arab and Islamic world and of all peace-loving states at the measures that Israel has taken and is still taking to change the religious and demographic character of Jerusalem.

'Adnan Abu 'Awdah thanked the states that voted for the Security Council resolution and expressed the Jordanian Government's regret at the abstention of the United States, Britain and Norway in the vote for the resolution, particularly as these states' declared position was and still is one that acknowledges that Israeli settlements in the occupied territories are illegal.

The acting prime minister and foreign minister expressed the hope that all the states, including those that abstained from voting for the resolution, will give the necessary support for the success of the tripartite committee whose formation was approved by the Security Council in its resolution on sending a factfinding mission to the occupied territories. He stressed that this committee will contribute positively to efforts to establish the just and comprehensive peace sought by the international community.

Abu 'Awdah said that Israel has flouted all UN resolutions on settlements and that it is still carrying out its settlement policies even during the Egyptian-Israeli peace talks. Abu 'Awdah exmpahized that the intensification of settlements will create a situation where the establishment of a just peace becomes impossible.

The acting prime minister and foreign minister maintained that Jordan will continue its efforts for a just and comprehensive peace. He said that the concept of peace is not based on the prevention of war while Israel consolidates its settlements in the occupied Palestinian Arab territories. He asserted that the just peace upon which the international community insists is that which is based on the concept of Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories--above all Jerusalem--and the restoration of the Palestinian people's national rights.

AL-AKHBAR DOUBTS U.S. COULD FULFILL GUARANTEES

JN250751 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 25 Mar 79 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Dealing with the U.S. stand on the Middle East conflict and the Palestinian people, AL-AKHBAR says: If the United States is actually willing to tackle the Palestinian people's issue without discrimination, what then has prompted it to strongly oppose the Jordanian complaint at the UN Security Council with regard to the Israeli settlements in the West Bank, even though the confiscation of land and the setting up of settlements are inconsistent with the principles of international law and the Geneva charter of 1949?

The paper adds: If the U.S. administration is anxious about human rights or just pretends to be, what has prompted it to exert all these efforts for the sake of obscure agreements at Camp David? These agreements grant nothing more than self-rule to the Palestinians, and the Israelis explained that this self-rule does not mean sovereignty over the land or resources.

AL-AKHBAR concludes: Since the United States has failed to help As-Sadat link the treaty and self-rule, we doubt that the United States can guarantee anything to the Palestinians.

PRESS URGES DECISIVE ACTION AGAINST PEACE TREATY

JN260934 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 26 Mar 79 JN

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The As-Sadat-Begin Pact" the newspaper AR-RA'Y says today that it is true that today is a day of mourning and catastrophe for the Arab and Islamic world. There is no shame in lamenting. What is shameful is to allow setbacks to transform us from a strong and capable nation into a weak and capitulationist one. At the time that the Egyptian-Israeli pact will be signed by As-Sadat and Begin today, His Majesty King Husayn will leave for Damascus and Baghdad to discuss the situation and to look for appropriate methods to confront the damaging consequences which will result from the Egyptian regime's relinquishment of its pan-Arab and national commitments and paralyzing of the Egyptian force.

Realizing the momentous loss and the immense danger which threatens the countries of the Arab east and the entire Arab nation, His Majesty King Husayn has seen fit to act and to exert his best efforts to find elements for confrontation and deterrence through the building of an inherent power which would be capable of dealing with the new situation and developments in the Arab area. The alliance among Amman, Damascus and Baghdad is a pan-Arab necessity imposed by the serious circumstances which have taken place as a result of the Egyptian regime's defeat and capitulation to the conditions of the Israeli enemy.

AR-RA'Y adds that despite such an alliance being dictated by the unity of the homeland and the nation throughout its long history, the challenges facing these countries and the overt greed of the enemy nations for the resources of the Arabian Peninsula makes it incumbent for all these countries to unite, build their inherent strength, cooperate and integrate to prevent a collapse in other places following the collapse of the Egyptian front.

AR-RA'Y expresses the hope that an inherent Arab strength will be established capable of liberating the territories and regaining the rights and preventing this day from becoming a day of mourning and humiliation to the Arab nation. The paper concludes its editorial by saying that if some specific international equations have enabled the establishment of the Egyptian-Israeli pact at a time when the logic of force is prevailing, there will come a day when our nation will prove that it is greater than defeat and stronger than all the capitulationist alliances. The fate of this ill-omened pact will not be any better than all past pacts which were based on humiliating this nation and robbing it of its resources. The people's will will always be stronger than anything else.

Under the headline "The Day of the Big Fall Is the Day of the Big Test," the newspaper AD-DUSTUR says that our generation has not known more painful moments or more sorrowful ones than this day when As-Sadat has decided to impose on the Arab nation the bitterness of feeling and despair without which the Arab nation would have been at the climax of its strength and vitality.

We have never known a more humiliating day in our contemporary history than this day when the leader of the biggest Arab country has chosen to kneel in front of Menahem Begin, to sign with him an unconditional capitulationist document and give up the Palestinian people's rights for whose preservation Egypt has offered many sacrifices during the past 30 years.

Our sorrow over the disappearance of Egypt from the confrontation arena, its temporary withdrawal from the Arab League and As-Sadat's alinement with the enemy camp must not divert our attention from the imminent dangers and must not weaken our determination to confront the various acts of the conspiracy which have not been fully implemented yet.

The Arab nation has witnessed many phases during which Egypt has isolated itself willingly or unwillingly while the Arabs in Africa and Asia forged a new history. As people and governments, we are called upon today more than any other time to prove to Israel, Egypt and the United States that the Arab nation's will has never been linked to the decision of one man. We must also prove to them that the Arabs are strong without Egypt, that they are united despite the breach Egypt caused by its withdrawal, and that they possess opportunities for an honorable peace in this area of the world according to their conditions and free will.

As-Sadat has wagered on Arab weakness. It is our duty to prove to him that we are strong without him. As-Sadat has wagered on the capitulation of the Arab will to the Israeli demands. It is our duty to prove to him that the Arab will is stronger, God willing, than Israel's will. As-Sadat has also wagered on U.S. strength, which leads one to think that it possesses control over the people's fate and destiny as it wishes. We have the duty to prove to As-Sadat and to the United States that we are not pawns but free peoples who prefer death to surrendering to the foreigner's will.

AD-DUSTUR adds that this day, which is the day of the big fall of the Egyptian regime, is at the same time the day of the big test for the Arab nation. The elements of the Arab-Israeli struggle have changed for the first time in 30 years. The Arabs are no longer facing Israel alone. They are also facing an Arab regime which suddenly chose to side with the enemy camp. Our duty from now on, as people and governments, is to rely on ourselves and on our plentiful capabilities and potentials and to place these potentials and capabilities in the service of the pan-Arab objectives.

We have the duty to transform the psychological defeat As-Sadat wants to impose on us into a victory so that justice and Arab will will prevail. The coming days will be difficult ones. We shall be confronted with many challenges through which God will be testing our determination to confront obstacles. The difficult days will be a test of the vitality of the Arab nation and of its readiness to offer sacrifices for the causes of justice. For this and many other reasons, we cannot and must not fail the test.

MINISTER RETURNS FROM MOGADISCIO, MAKES STATEMENT

JN261329 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Hasan Ibrahim, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Amman this morning after heading the Jordanian delegation to the Arab League Council meetings which were held in Mogadiscio, capital of Somalia, on 24 and 25 March. Ibrahim said that the council adopted a number of resolutions, including one calling on the Arab states to exert intensive efforts to prevent foreign countries from transferring their diplomatic missions to Jerusalem and for the Arab and Islamic states to cooperate in this respect. The resolution emphasizes that any such transfer will have adverse effects on the relations between the Arab states and any country embarking on such action.

Asked about the outcome of his meeting with Saudi Foreign Minister His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal while en route to Mogadiscio, Minister Ibrahim said that he held lengthy talks with the Saudi minister during which they exchanged views on the current Arab situation and the position on implementing the Baghdad summit resolutions which will be raised during the Arab foreign ministers conference tomorrow in Baghdad.

Asked about the resignation of Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad, Minister Hasan Ibrahim said that the council has voiced its appreciation of Mahmud Riyad and expressed the hope that Riyad will withdraw or freeze his resignation.

The 71st session of the Arab League Council meeting, held in Mogadiscio, adopted a resolution regarding Israel's attempts to force all foreign embassies and missions to transfer their offices to Jerusalem. The resolution calls on the Arab states to hold intensive bilateral contacts with the various countries which have diplomatic relations with Israel to persuade them not to give in to Israeli pressure to transfer their embassies and missions to Jerusalem in solidarity with Arab rights and in harmony with UN resolutions. The Arab states will explain to the countries concerned the gravity of Israel's action and its bad consequences for the future of Arab Jerusalem as well as its effect on the relations between the Arab and Islamic states, on the one hand, and the states which might transfer their embassies and missions to Jerusalem, on the other. The league council agreed to raise the question of Jerusalem at the next meeting of the Islamic Congress so it can discuss it and adopt the appropriate decision on it. The council also decided to raise the subject with the general committee of European-Arab dialog for discussion with the European bloc so as to urge this bloc to adopt a position in support of Arab rights on the subject. The council also decided to refer the subject of Jerusalem to the Arab League permanent delegation in New York so it can present it to the Arab bloc at the United Nations and follow it up with the United Nations. The council adopted this resolution after Jordan had asked the council to include the subject on the agenda of this session and to adopt the appropriate resolution on it.

AL-HUSS REAFFIRMS LEBANON'S POSITION ON MIDEAST TREATY

NC251723 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Mar 79 NC

[Text] On the eve of the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss said today that Lebanon's position regarding the agreement is known: We have expressed this position on more than one occasion, particularly in the wake of President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem and also after Camp David.

Prime Minister al-Huss added: The Lebanese position is summed up in the fact that the Palestinian issue is the core of the problem; any settlement that does not insure a just solution to this issue by emphasizing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, particularly their right to their homeland, cannot bring peace and stability to the Middle East.

Prime Minister al-Huss continued: The issue is a joint Arab cause, and not one that concerns only one Arab state and not the others. He emphasized that Lebanon is committed to the policy of Arab solidarity, and has emphasized this commitment through its participation in the Baghdad summit conference and adherence to its resolutions.

Prime Minister al-Huss concluded his statement by saying:

The Baghdad summit resolutions contained a clear and frank stipulation that emphasizes the Palestinian people's right to their homeland and rejects all plans to settle the Palestinians outside their homeland.

SYRIA REPORTEDLY TO REDUCE MILITARY PRESENCE IN LEBANON

NC261145 Doha QNA in Arabic 0950 GMT 26 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 26 March--According to Lebanese and Syrian sources, the governments of Lebanon and Syria have agreed on the gradual reduction of the Syrian military presence in Lebanon, whereby most of the tasks currently being assigned to the Syrian forces will be taken over by the Lebanese Army and internal security forces by the end of this year.

In statements which were published by the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH today, these sources add that instead of the Arab Deterrent Forces, which predominantly consist of Syrian troops, particularly following the withdrawal of the Sudanese and Saudi forces and the imminent departure of the UAE forces, a special security agreement will be concluded permitting the stationing of the Syrian forces in certain strategic locations in Lebanon that will enable them to intervene in the event of the inability of the Lebanese forces to deal with any breaches of security.

The newspaper says that by the end of this year, which is the date the current mandate of the Arab Deterrent Forces expires, the Lebanese Army command will have implemented the army reorganization law and will have secured the sectarian and national balance in this army.

Citing the same sources, the newspaper says that the main reason behind the decision to reduce the Syrian military presence is Syria's desire to devote itself to confronting the consequences of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty and its fear that it will be the target of possible Israeli aggression.

JORDAN'S KING HUSAYN, AL-ASAD HOLD TALKS

JN261225 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Mar 79 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad held two rounds of talks at the presidential palace in Damascus at noon today. The first round of talks was an expanded one and was attended on the Jordanian side by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the minister of the Royal Court, and the minister of state for foreign affairs. The following attended on the Syrian side: the Syrian prime minister, the deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and the minister of state for presidential affairs.

The second round of talks was restricted to His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad.

In the two rounds of talks, the two sides reviewed present developments in the area and the ways to cope with the current circumstances and the challenges of the future. They also discussed the ways to pool Arab resources and capabilities and consolidate the Arab position in a manner that can serve the pan-Arab interest and the joint goals.

His Majesty King Husayn arrived in Damascus today on the first leg of a tour to the Syrian Arab Republic and the Republic of Iraq for talks with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and high-ranking Syrian officials and His Excellency President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and high-ranking Iraqi officials on the latest developments taking place in the Middle East area.

His Majesty King Husayn was met at Damascus International Airport by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi, high-ranking Syrian officials, and Jordanian ambassador in Damascus Husayn Hamami. Syrian ambassador in Amman 'Abd al-Karim as-Sabbagh arrived on the same plane.

His Majesty King Husayn left Amman airport this morning. He was seen off by His Royal Highness Prince Muhammad, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah, His Royal Highness Prince Faysal, the president of the Senate, the chairman of the Consultative National Council, the commander in chief of the armed forces, his highness the chief chamberlain, and the ministers.

His Majesty King Husayn is accompanied on this visit by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Chief of the Royal Hashemite Court 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, Minister of the Royal Court 'Amir Khammash, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hasan Ibrahim, and several aides.

His Royal Highness Prince Muhammad was sworn in before his majesty the king in the presence of the Cabinet as deputy to his majesty throughout his absence from the country.

KHADDAM CALLS FOR OVERTHROW OF AS-SADAT

LD271015 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Mar 79 pp 1, 2 LD

[Wafa'i Diyab report on press conference given by Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in London on 23 March]

[Text] Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam has said that the current peace negotiations between Egypt and Israel aim at creating an Egyptian-Israeli alliance against the Arab nation, Africa and Asia, in which Egypt will be used as a coercive tool in the area.

He added that the countries which inflamed the situation in Lebanon are now looking for another country, because the world has become accustomed to the Lebanese crisis and is no longer interested in it. He said that the eastern front does exist and that Syria will not be alone in the battle should war with Israel be renewed.

The minister praised the Saudi stand toward current events and said that all the resolutions adopted at the Baghdad summit will be implemented. He said that the Geneva conference has become a thing of the past and that he is optimistic about the situation in Lebanon.

Minister Khaddam was speaking at an exclusive meeting with Arab journalists in London in which he discussed the current problems in the Middle East and Arab-European relations.

Minister Khaddam also held another press conference with foreign journalists in London yesterday morning at which he discussed the same subject.

The Syrian minister said that the Egyptian-Israeli treaty achieves several Zionist gains and ignores the Palestinian problem.

Khaddam said that Europe is now very concerned over developments in the area and that it wants peace provided this will not affect its economic and security interests. "But it feels, as we do, that what has been done so far will not bring peace and that its interests will become vulnerable as a result of potentially grave developments taking place in the area following the treaty. The European countries are unable to express their convictions except within a limited scope."

He added: "We have told the British that the Arab-Israeli conflict began with the Balfour declaration and continued for the sake of Palestine. Has a single fair solution for the crux of the conflict been found?

"On the contrary. This is because Camp David has destroyed Palestine. It speaks about self-rule for the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza--that is, reorganizing Israeli occupation--but did not speak about a Palestinian state or the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. Does self-rule achieve such rights? No. The Camp David accord has ignored the Palestinian problem and sought to split the Palestinian people. Therefore, the principal reason for the conflict remains, and so does the cause for future wars."

Continuing, Khaddam said: "The other point is that the Egyptian ruler cannot speak, or decide or negotiate on behalf of the Arabs. The question does not concern one particular Arab country because the whole Arab nation participated in the conflict, either through their military or other resources. Why whould the oil countries be asked to use the oil weapon in the war and not now have the right to participate in decision-making? Why should Syria be asked to offer tens of thousands of martyrs in the October War and not have a right in decision-making? This is a matter of destiny of grave importance. When the matter involves a question of destiny, no Arab ruler has a right to end the conflict."

He added: "The Arab nation, represented in the Baghdad summit, alone has the power and the jurisdiction. The Egyptian president has no such power or right to negotiate or to declare that, if King Husayn refuses to join negotiations, then he will negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians."

The Syrian deputy prime minister recognized that the European countries' ability to bring pressure to bear on the United States is almost nonexistent and said: "The European countries are humble in this regard, they want peace but are incapable of exercising any particular pressure."

Referring to the Arab countries that expressed some reservations regarding certain resolutions, he said: All the countries are committed to what we decided. Certain countries have expressed reservations, but now they are adopting a clear stand, such as the YAR and other countries.

Referring to Saudi Arabia's attitude, he said that it is good and constructive and that the statement issued by the Saudi Cabinet 2 days ago reflects the unified Arab stand.

Speaking about the possible impact of the situation on Lebanon, he said: "They are now looking for another country. Lebanon no longer serves their purpose. They set off events there in order to insure the Sinai agreement. The crime being committed now is greater, and therefore they want a bigger cover. The world has become used to living with the Lebanese crisis and is no longer so interested in it as it was a few years ago. Therefore they have tried to inflame war between the two Yemens. The aim, of course, is to provide a cover for the peace treaty. They tried to throw fat in the fire with the aim of dragging the Arabian Peninsula countries into conflict, because those countries are a supporting power for Syria and the PLO. But the brothers in the north and the south have realized the seriousness of the game and have therefore been able to foil it."

Asked about the sanctions that will be applied against Egypt after the treaty is signed, Minister Khaddam said: All the resolutions adopted at the Baghdad summit will be implemented. I believe that other measures will also be taken to tighten the sanctions.

The Syrian minister called on the Arab masses to exert maximum pressure in order to stifle, bring down and punish the Egyptian regime.

The minister said that the Americans are unable to compensate Egypt in any way, and the talk about such compensation is an attempt to mislead them. "When former President Nixon came to Cairo the people thought that the sky would rain gold and silver, but the visit led to nothing and, indeed, was followed by the outbreak of the well-known 18-19 January incidents."

Khaddam then spoke about the importance of the people's role in attaining the desired objectives and said: "We must collaborate. The Iranian events have taught us a great deal and restored confidence in the people's role. The people's role is limitless. The shah of Iran was much stronger than As-Sadat when he was toppled. We are now facing fateful a decision, and there is no room for dallying. Either you are with us or you are against us. Other governments must now decide."

Asked whether As-Sadat's fall would mean the collapse of the treaty, the Syrian minister replied: "Of course. If the regime goes, the treaty will go. In the Third World, if the individual is changed the whole policy changes."

Regarding Syria's attitude toward the United States and the possibility that the U.S. administration might resort to pressure on Syria, Minister Khaddam said: "Such pressures do not impress us much. During the Lebanese events we received five threatening letters in a single day, but we stood our ground and fulfilled our task there."

He affirmed that if Syria is involved in war with Israel it will not be alone. "There are many friendly countries in the world that will stand with us. We will absolutely not submit."

Speaking about the eastern front, Khaddam said that this front does exist and that the Iraqi forces will be with Jordan and Syria. What is needed is further steps, the most important of which is to take measures to punish the Egyptian regime, to resort to all means to inflict such punishment and to build up Arab strength and Arab solidarity.

Referring to rumors that Israel is preparing for a lightning military action against some Arab countries, Khaddam said: "Such psychological warfare must be expected. But, of course, should such an attack take place we will retaliate strongly."

Asked about the Soviet Union's attitude toward current events and the rumors that it is trying to hinder Syrian-Iraqi unity, Khaddam said: "The Soviet Union is a friendly state and we deal with it on the basis of our interests. We take what is good for us and keep away from what harms us."

He said that relations between Syria and the other countries are judged by a single standard. "Relations are determined in accordance with the attitude of such countries toward the Palestinian problem."

The Syrian minister denied that a date has been fixed for the declaration of unity between Syria and Iraq and said: "We are working in a straightforward manner. We will not give in to rumors or attempts to cast doubts or create conditions contrary to the desired objective. What has been achieved so far is very substantial."

Once again talking about Lebanon, he said: "There is a general feeling among all the parties of the need to find a way to national reconciliation, and we are encouraging this trend. The general atmosphere calls for great optimism. I consider the enactment of the [Lebanese] army law a positive step."

Asked whether it is true that a bilateral agreement has been signed between Syria and Lebanon, he replied: "There are more important things now. We have not seen a Lebanese official since the Bayt ad-Din conference."

The Syrian minister then spoke about the resolutions of the office for the Arab boycott of Israel. He said that the next foreign ministers conference will endorse everything needed to implement the boycott. Egyptian companies dealing with Israel will come under the boycott rules, he said.

Khaddam praised the Egyptian people, saying that they are a great people and will not accept the treaty. As-Sadat's fate will be similar to that of the shah of Iran. The Arab boycott will not be a boycott of the Egyptian people but of President as-Sadat's regime.

KHADDAM VIEWS TREATY AT PARIS PRESS CONFERENCE

JN262037 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 26 Mar 79 JN

[Text] Paris--Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam met today with French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing. The meeting was attended by the Syrian ambassador in Paris.

The talks dealt with the Middle East issue in light of recent developments pertaining to the capitulatory peace treaty between Egyptian ruler Anwar as-Sadat and the Zionist enemy. The talks were held in an amicable atmosphere of total understanding.

Mr 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam expressed satisfaction with the talks he had held with French Foreign Minister Jean-Francois Poncet. At a press conference he held today attended by representatives of the French press and several Arab reporters, Mr Khaddam said: Undoubtedly, since 1967 France has viewed the situation in the area objectively.

At the press conference, Mr Khaddam affirmed that the separate peace treaty between the Egyptian regime and Israel has removed peace from the area. It constitutes a major obstacle to the march of peace. This treaty has wrecked all the efforts exerted by the world to bring about peace in the Middle East and has impeded UN resolutions. He added: For these reasons, the Arabs reject this treaty. He stressed: I mean all the Arabs, including the Egyptian people.

Mr Khaddam stressed that the Arabs will not remain spectators regarding the Egyptian-Israeli-U.S. alliance that is being established.

Answering a question on the possible effects on Syrian-U.S. relations in the wake of the recent developments pertaining to the treaty between the Egyptian regime and Israel, Mr Khaddam said: The United States has not behaved toward the Arabs as a country that desires Arab friendship. It has sought to divide the Arab ranks. The Arabs will certainly unite and the Americans and others will realize that the Arab nation can overcome anything that harms it. He said: We are not pessimistic. All developments taking place in the area will ultimately be in our interest. The cards and capabilities that we possess are enormous. We will see who will win in the end.

On the possible effects on the Egyptian people of the sanctions that will be imposed on As-Sadat's regime following the signing of the treaty with Israel, Mr Khaddam said: This subject was discussed at the Baghdad summit conference. There was unanimity in the view that the Egyptian people should not be punished twice. These people are being punished for having As-Sadat as their president. Therefore, any sanctions will be aimed against the regime and not against the people. There is also a distinction between those who deal with Israel and those who do not. Certainly, the overwhelming majority of the Egyptian people are against dealing with Israel.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam is scheduled to return to Damascus this evening. He will participate in the Arab foreign and economy ministers conference scheduled to begin in Baghdad tomorrow.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES LIBYAN FOREIGN SECRETARY

JN261954 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 26 Mar 79 JN

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, foreign secretary of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, at 1945 today. The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs 'Abd al-Karim 'Adi and the head of the Libyan liaison office in Damascus, Ahmad Ibn 'Abd as-Salam Khayyam. They discussed the issues that will be put before the meetings of Arab foreign and economy ministers which begin in Baghdad tomorrow in implementation of the Baghdad summit conference for adoption of the measures required by As-Sadat's signing of a separate peace treaty with Israel.

ALGERIA

TUNISIAN PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA ARRIVES FOR TALKS

LD260824 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Hedi Nouira arrived in Algeria yesterday evening. He was welcomed by Algerian Prime Minister Mohamed Abdelghani and by Mohamed Seddik Benyahia, and member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister. On arrival, Hedi Nouira said: We have come to Algeria on the instructions of President Habib Bourguiba to convey to President Chadli Bendjedid the congratulations of the Tunisian president, state and people on his election as Algerian president. We pray that the Almighty will help him perform his task of serving the good of the fraternal Algerian people.

History, neighborhood, religion, and the Tunisian and Algerian regimes, he said, are all bonds tying the two countries together. In addition to their common faith and culture, they are also bound together by their common struggle for the glory of the Arab Maghreb.

Meeting With Bendjedid

LD262256 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Prime Minister Hedi Nouira held talks this morning with Algerian head of state Chadli Bendjedid. After the 50-minute meeting, Hedi Nouira made the following statement:

[Nouira--begin recording] I thank his excellency the president for the warm welcome he accorded the Tunisian delegation. I thank him also for his fraternal feelings, and the preparedness of the Algerian people and the Algerian Government to continue our joint work for the happiness of both the Tunisian and Algerian peoples. The intention showed by his excellency the president to strengthen cooperation in all fields is shared by the Tunisian Government and people. [end recording]

LIBERIAN PRESIDENT TOLBERT PAYS VISIT

LD251252 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Mar 79 LD

[Summary] President William Tolbert of Liberia arrived in Algiers this morning accompanied by a delegation of Liberian officials for a friendly, businesslike visit to Algeria. He was welcomed at the airport by President Chadli Bendjedid. In a statement at the airport, President Tolbert said he hoped his visit would consolidate friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Departure After Visit

LD252052 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Mar 79 LD

[Summary] President William Tolbert of Liberia left Algiers this evening at the end of his brief visit, during which he had talks with President Bendjedid. The president said on departure that he had discussed with Bendjedid relations and cooperation between the two countries, the situation in southern Africa and the situation in the Middle East.

LIBYA

DEMONSTRATORS HAND PROTEST LETTER TO U.S. EMBASSY

LD261446 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD

[Text] In Tripoli, a demonstration that began at Green Square today continued when marchers passed through Martyr Muhammad al-Mujallis Square and gathered in front of the U.S. Embassy chanting "Down with the traitors!" and denouncing the stand of the U.S. imperialist administration, which has driven its traitorous defeated agent, the defeated Egyptian president, to sign the agreements of capitulation and disgrace with racist Zionism.

The particpants in the demonstration handed in an open letter to the U.S. people. It reads: The masses of the Libyan Arab people and their revolutionary vanguards, who came out today in demonstrations of protest and denunciation against the agreements of humiliation and disgrace which the defeated Egyptian president will be signing with the Zionist enemy, denounce the role of the U.S. administration, which instigated and drove the defeated agent to sign these treaties, and which has offered all economic, political and military support to the Zionist enemy to enable it to establish itself in occupied Palestine and to carry out acts of aggression from there on the Arab countries and to intimidate and murder the Arab people in occupied Palestine.

The letter affirms that the masses, while denouncing the attitude of the United States toward this deal, warns the United States of the consequences of this for its relations with and interests in the Arab area as a whole. The letter affirms that the Arab masses throughout the Arab arena will continue their struggle with all their force and capabilities against the treacherous Zionist aggression, the like of which mankind has never seen before, will bring down all the capitulationist agreements and will tread on them and on he who has signed them.

COMMENTARY SAYS EGYPTIAN REGIME HAS MERGED WITH ZIONISTS

LD261552 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The defeated Egyptian regime and the traitorous Egyptian president have shed their last mask to prove that the treasons of the defeated Egyptian president and his regime are treason against the Arab nation and against the Egyptian Arab people, as well as against the martyrs who fell victims to the Zionist-American bombs.

The signing of the treaty means that the defeated Egyptian regime has fully merged with the Zionists and has become more Zionist than the Zionists themselves. This requires the Arab nation to adopt a combat stand to defend itself and to foil the plot before its danger spreads.

The entire Arab nation is the target of this traitorous plot. Hence any regime in the Arab homeland that stands by the defeated Egyptian regime, overtly or covertly, is a regime in collusion with Zionism, indeed a Zionist regime just like the Egyptian regime. Any military, political or financial aid to the Egyptian regime is tantamount to aid to the Zionist aggression against the Arab nation.

After the defeated Egyptian president's signing of the treaty, any weakening stand taken will be tantamount to stands of collusion with Zionism and imperialism, for the squandering of the Arab land in Palestine is like the squandering of the entire Arab land.

Israel no longer occupies Palestine alone; it also occupies Egypt. Hence any Arab regime that supports the defeated Egyptian regime will in fact be supporting the Zionist occupation of our Arab territory in Egypt and bolstering this occupation against the Libyan people, who today are standing up to Zionism on their eastern borders not to defend themselves alone, but also to defend the entire Arab nation, and are standing now in the frontline trench on the direct line of contact with Zionism.

Today the Arab nation has seen the truth. It now knows for sure that Libya had no personal feud with the defeated Egyptian regime. [passage indistinct]

Today we appeal to our nation, from the gulf to the ocean: Arabism is threatened. Islam is threatened. The traitors have unmasked their ugly faces. Libya, with the masses of Arabism and Islam behind it, is today standing on the line of confrontation and the line of direct contact with Zionism.

MAURITANIA

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES STAND ON MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT

LD270140 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD

[Excerpt] In light of developments in the Middle East crisis, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania has affirmed its firm stand on the Middle East crisis. The Council of Ministers has studied the situation in the region, giving particular attention to the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. The Council of Ministers has affirmed anew our country's stand on this question--a position that has been declared at various summit conferences of the Arab League, particularly at the recent Baghdad summit conference.

Mauritania firmly believes that any permanent and just peace in this region must come about through a complete withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, recognition of the inalienable and sacred rights of the Palestinian Arab people, and the liberation of the holy city of Jerusalem.

MOROCCO

BOUCETTA REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO RABAT RESOLUTIONS

LD261542 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD

[Excerpt] Mr M'hamed Boucetta, minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation, left Morocco this morning for Baghdad to take part in the conference of the Arab foreign and finance ministers which is due to begin tomorrow. At the airport, M'hamed Boucetta made a statement to the radio reporter in which he said: [begin recording]

[Boucetta] I am going to Baghdad, with the help of God, at the head of the Moroccan delegation at the invitation of sister-country Iraq. I have been instructed by his majesty the king to attend the conference due to open tomorrow in implementation of the resolutions of the Baghdad conference of last November.

Morocco's presence is necessary at this crucial stage the Arab nation is passing through. As far as we are concerned, positions should be made clear now and there should be a return to the fundamental factors that have been arousing the feelings of the Arab nation since the occupation of Palestine and the Zionist onslaught against the dignity, unity and territories of the Arab nation.

At this crucial stage, Morocco must reaffirm its attitude which stems fully and absolutely from the resolutions of the Rabat summit conference in October 1974. The summit then ruled that no particular or general solution could be found to the Middle East question until there is a complete withdrawal from the Arab lands occupied since 1967, including Holy Jerusalem, until the Palestinian question is regarded basically as the key problem; and until the Palestinians regain their land, rights and dignity--they are represented by the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. No partial or separate agreement can bring about a settlement in the region and it is the duty of the Arab nation to resume confrontation with the enemy, its obduracy and stubbornness.

Morocco has always adhered to these resolutions and will continue to do so until they are carried out--and they will be carried out. Morocco is in the Arab ranks and it will remain in the Arab ranks to face up to aggression and tyranny.

[Radio reporter] If the treaty with the Zionist enemy is signed by Egypt in a few hours' time, will Morocco, which participated in the Baghdad conference during which resolutions were adopted, carry out its commitments to the Baghdad summit conference or not?

[Boucetta] When a country commits itself to something, it is bound to carry it out and not to leave its pledges as mere ink on paper. And Morocco has always carried out its commitments. [end recording]

TUNISIA

PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA RETURNS FROM ALGERIA VISIT

LD262258 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Hedi Nouira, secretary general of the party and prime minister, returned to Tunis this afternoon after a visit of friendship to sister Algeria. At the airport, Nouira made the following statement:

[Nouira--begin recording] [Words indistinct] to offer the congratulations of President Habib Bourguiba and his best wishes. I met with His Excellency President Bendjedid, and our talks were very fruitful, especially with regard to bilateral relations. I also had talks with my colleague Mr Abdelghani. We discussed various issues concerning bilateral relations. The conclusion I draw from this short visit is that our bilateral relations [words indistinct]. [end recording]

BEGIN INTERVIEWED ON WASHINGTON TALKS

TA261756 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 26 Mar 79 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Excerpt] Our correspondent in Washington Shalom Qital transmits to us via telephone an interview with Prime Minister Menahem Begin.

[Qital] A few minutes ago I found an excited prime minister, he did not conceal his excitement. He says: In 2 hours we will sign the peace treaty. I had good meetings with President Carter today and with President as-Sadat yesterday. Here is a short talk, an exclusive talk the prime minister held with us 2 minutes ago.

[Qital--begin recording] Mr Prime Minister, I want to know how you feel at this time.

[Begin] I am just coming from an excellent talks I held with President Carter. I think it is possible to say that all the obstacles have been removed. Yesterday I had a talk with President as-Sadat. He told President Carter today that the talk he held with me was very important and he was very happy about it. I will be one of the three signatories on the peace treaty in its three versions at 1400 Washington time. However, yesterday night we decided with President as-Sadat that I will reciprocate his visit to Jerusalem with my visit to Cairo. I will go to Cairo on Monday with my wife. President Carter told me that President as-Sadat asked whether I wanted to visit the synagogue in Cairo. Of course, I replied in the affirmative. Perhaps, he will want to return to us the books of the Torah which have been saved and I will bring them back to Israel. I do not know yet whether I will make a speech to the Egyptian Parliament or not. I did not ask to do so, it is up to my host to decide on this matter.

This morning, I was very happy to receive a phone call from one of my friends. He gave me the greatest news of this day: Our people have started to be happy. People greet each other in the street with "good luck"; the editorials in both afternoon newspapers start with the opening words of my speech on my arrival in Washington yesterday: This is the day we longed for, let us rejoice and be happy in this day. If the people are happy, then I am happy too.

[Qital] Are you excited, Mr Begin?

[Begin] Yes. No doubt I am very excited. I am excited; I am moved but not frightened.

[Qital] Thank you very much. [end recording]

BEGIN INTERVIEWED AFTER SIGNING PEACE TREATY

TA270708 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0605 GMT 27 Mar 79 TA

[From a special Morning Newsreel; interview with Prime Minister Menahem Begin by Israeli correspondents in Washington, D.C. after the signing of the peace treaty, prior to the ceremonial dinner at the White House--recorded]

[Text] [Begin--begin recording] I want to tell you simply: I feel good today. I think we have done something important for the people of Israel. Indeed, it took time and even some pain: Eretz Yisra'el is bought with pain.

And in my speech, too, I said that I had to endure attacks and even aggressive words, not only from foreigners but also from my own people. Today, our foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state signed two very important documents. The first is called the Agreement With the United States on the Mutual Relations Concerning the Peace Treaty Between Israel and Egypt. This is a very beautiful document, well written, and what it contains is very important. One can say, in brief, that the United States gave us a commitment that it will not accept a violation of the peace treaty. A commitment to us, to Israel, that it will take steps if it sees such a violation; clearly, this refers not to Israel, but to another party which might violate the treaty. The United States will not accept this. This is the first document, and you will probably be able to read it in a day or so.

[Question by unidentified correspondent] Does it also specify how it will act?

[Begin] Yes, among other things, this is also specified. For example, it will increase its presence in the Middle East, will act to remove any naval blockade, will veto in the UN Security Council any resolution which might harm the peace treaty and will also supply arms to Israel during an emergency. All this is written in the document. The second document applies to the oil. Here a very significant change has occurred. It was possible for us to agree to withdraw from the oilwells after 7 months and not 9 months, because of last night's talk between President as-Sadat and myself, in which we achieved a new highly-significant agreement [haskama]. Until last night, the Egyptians said that they will start selling us oil 6 months after we evacuate the oilwells. As of last night, after President as-Sadat and I agreed on it, there will be no stop in the flow of oil and we will start to receive the oil the day after we evacuate the wells.

God willing, I intend to arrive in Cairo at noon on Monday. I have been invited to speak before the Egyptian Parliament. President as-Sadat has arranged it so that I would visit the synagogue, where there are a few remaining Jews, and the Egyptians are prepared to have me stay overnight, I have not yet decided on it. Perhaps we will return the same evening, maybe we will wait and spend the evening there as well and return home the next day.

The central point is the speech before the Egyptian Parliament. I shall prepare the speech in Hebrew and will speak in our language. There will certainly be simultaneous translation, as there was in the Knesset [during As-Sadat's visit]. No doubt the entire Egyptian nation will hear my words, on the radio and on television. I consider this visit important.

[Question by unidentified correspondent] Is there any significance to the fact that President as-Sadat will not visit Jerusalem?

[Begin] No, there is no political significance to this. He simply explained to me that these days it would be difficult for him to visit Jerusalem. I have always told him, even when he was in Jerusalem and told me that it was difficult for him to invite me to Cairo for the moment, I always said to him--and I told him today as well--that I have patience. OK, I understand you; you have difficulties. However, what did we both agree to do? It was my initiative and I told him: Look, Mr President, you were with us in Jerusalem. I must make a return visit to you in Cairo. For sure, he replied. This is how the invitation was made.

Both sides of the border will be opened after we leave Al-'Arish, that is, approximately 2 months after exchanging the documents of ratification. Then the border will be opened from both directions, in approximately 2 months.

On the way to the United States, I had a meeting with the British prime minister, Mr Jimmy Callaghan. His attitude is very honest and positive. Gentlemen, this is an international event, you must remember this and many nations are positively excited about it.

By the way, the inhabitants of this city--not Jews, Christians--have not ceased their congratulations and offers to shake hands. However, when I asked who was demonstrating by the White House, as we were continually accompanied by shouts, President Carter said: These are Arab students. I told him: Thank God there are no Jewish students. [laughter] And really there were none there. But when I come to Israel they might turn up.

The guarantee is to supply oil for 15 years, which is a lengthy period of time. However, I want you to explain to the people of Israel that even though we are grateful for this guarantee--because it is a serious one--we do not want to implement it. We do not want it to happen that one day someone in the United States will say: We are shivering with cold yet we are giving oil to Israel. Frankly, there may be people in the United States who will say: We are suffering from an oil or energy or heating shortage and yet we are giving oil to the Jews. This may well be, and we do not want it. That is why I want to tell you that we used to get 60 percent of our annual consumption from Iran--between eight and nine million tons a year. Even before the shah was ousted we were careful to diversify our sources of supply.

[Question by unidentified correspondent] When will the guarantee take effect?

[Begin] Not the guarantee, but its implementation--when will it begin, this is the question.

[Question by unidentified correspondent] When does the U.S. commitment begin and when.

[Begin, interrupting] The U.S. commitment begins today, after the signing. However, there was disagreement over whether the implementation of the guarantee should begin the day we apply for it or the day we evacuate the oilfields. I think it has been agreed that it will begin the day we evacuate the oilwells [word indistinct].

[Question by unidentified correspondent] Will there still be negotiations?

[Begin] There will still be negotiations, but this is not crucial for us. The main thing, gentlemen, is--once again, one should not give too much information--that we can say that there are very serious grounds to announce that we will get in oil from Egypt. And that if, heaven forbid, this does not happen, we will receive all we need from the United States for half a generation--which is not insignificant. In the meantime we will continue to receive oil from other sources.

By the way, I spoke with Callaghan about supplying English oil, and he is definitely taking this into consideration, not this year, but next year.

[Question by unidentified correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, in 9 months there will be an Israeli ambassador to Cairo.

[Begin] In 10 months.

[Question by same correspondent] Ten months. When will there be an Egyptian ambassador in Israel and where will he serve?

[Begin] The ambassadors will be exchanged the same day. The Egyptian ambassador will come to us, and the Israeli ambassador will go to Egypt. As for the second part of your question, we would very much like the ambassador to sit in Jerusalem, but ultimately this depends on the decision of the Egyptian Government. If the Egyptian Government should say: What about the U.S. Embassy? Where is it located? Then our arguments will be silenced. I do not deny it.

[Elimelekh Ram] Mr Prime Minister. The finance minister said in a television interview this evening that he would recommend holding early elections in light of the new challenges facing the nation. What is your position?

[Begin] We signed a peace treaty, not for the Likud, but for the people of Israel. On this matter we are dependent on other parties as well. But I would like to say, in my opinion, there is no need to hold elections following the peace treaty with Egypt.

[Question by unidentified correspondent] What are the open borders you were speaking about? Does this include tourism [words indistinct]?

[Begin] Yes, the reference is also to tourism, actually open borders: The Egyptians will come to Israel, we will go to Egypt. Surely there will be arrangements, visas will be required, I presume, at first and there will be border checkpoints. One must remember that an organization known in English as the PLO still exists. It might take advantage of such a situation for its own purposes. It wants to murder As-Sadat now. Imagine: The PLO now wants to murder As-Sadat more than me. Therefore, the two countries will have to take certain precautionary measures. We will do so. However, today President as-Sadat informed me that after the Egyptians take over Al-'Arish, they will open the borders.

[Question by unidentified correspondent] Within the framework of the social issues the Cabinet wants to deal with after the borders are opened, do you think the Cabinet will also have to concentrate on preventive measures for fear of assimilation between Jews and Arabs as a result of the close ties which will be established by the open borders?

[Begin] My dear friend, if a boy wants to marry a non-Jewish girl--does this require a peace treaty? [laughter] [end recording]

YADIN INTERVIEWED AFTER WASHINGTON CEREMONY

TA271018 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0605 GMT 27 Mar 79 TA

[From a special Morning Newsreel; interview with Deputy Prime Minister Prof Yiga'el Yadin by Gabi Gazit in Washington after the signing of the peace treaty on 26 March--recorded]

[Text] [Gazit--begin recording] Professor Yadin, despite the fact that this question is a cliche, let me ask you: Three hours ago you watched those hands sign the peace agreement. Were you excited? What thoughts or perhaps memories crossed your mind?

[Yadin] Certainly I was excited. You must also remember where we were seated. To my left, one seat behind me was Mrs Jihan as-Sadat who wept when the ceremony began. To my right sat Vance and then Khalil, and this whole mixture, which seemed surrealistic, of Egyptians, Americans and Israelis--Rivka Guber [the mother who lost three sons in the wars of Israel] and a crowd which sang the hatiqva [the Israeli national anthem]. There was, I think, an experience shared by all.

[Question] Are we on the verge of peace, or on the verge of a new era of negotiations, renewed pressures, security threats?

[Answer] As for security threats, I think we will have them because let us not forget that we now have a peace treaty with Egypt. Not only do we not have a peace treaty with Jordan, Syria and Iraq, but we must at least be ready in case they are preparing for something. We will hear a lot of things which will not please us. Even the Egyptians, I am sure, will continue to talk about Jerusalem, a Palestinian state. But at the same time, it would be worthwhile to remember that we also sincerely talk about Jerusalem and about there never being a Palestinian state, and these things do not please them, either.

If we are a bit tolerant of these exchanges, it will help. The Egyptians must say it, some of them even think so--just as we do here. In the next few weeks we will begin negotiations on autonomy. These will be extraordinarily difficult negotiations. But the Egyptians know our position; and we also know their stance. Again, if we do not lose our patience, if everyone understands that what the other party demands does not mean that it has already decided to call off the game--it is part of negotiating, part of the demands--we will have peace, not necessarily as people expect it--like the relations between Belgium and The Netherlands. We must also bear in mind that there are many countries which have peace and have not experienced 30 years of hostility as we have, but they also have serious commercial and economic problems. There is no need to specify each time that this hostility stems from anti-Zionist or anti-Jewish reasons. Look at the kind of disputes that occur even in Europe over economic problems. In short, I would say that we will have peace on one front, and even it will face a very serious test in the coming year. I hope everyone will make the effort to strengthen it. The main difficulty is that, along with this peace, we must redeploy and prepare our army not only for Egypt--in the initial stage it is necessary to be cautious--but mainly against the eastern front. These are difficult yet interesting things. I cannot remember a period in which there were no serious problems.

[Question] Several people with whom I spoke shortly before our interview said that they experienced mixed feelings: both Egyptians and some members of Jimmy Carter's administration. All of them mentioned one word: settlements.

[Answer] Certainly this will place a burden on peace. There is not a shadow of a doubt about it, and I will insist--as far as I am concerned, and to the extent that I can--that these activities be carried out as I feel they have been conducted in the past year: in small doses. There were many such instances. Several times we succeeded in preventing them, but several times they occurred. This will be a problem, no doubt. But, as I have said, in certain respects it is inconceivable that we will not carry out such activity.

At the same time, one must remember that while these activities are carried out--or are not--in Eretz Yisra'el itself at the very same time, great events will take place in the Sinai. We must remember this. In 2 months, we will evacuate Al-'Arish, and then something which may not be too pleasing for us will happen: The Egyptian flag will be hoisted in Al-'Arish. They will turn it into the capital of the Negev [as heard]. I am sure that there will be a great ceremony and As-Sadat will come, and so will the army. Nevertheless, the Sinai will still remain in our hands. The Egyptians know this. Therefore, in this treaty--without complimenting ourselves, because this is a result of various efforts--there is here a certain balance in case one party gets angry or thinks that the other party is interfering. There is what is called in English checks and balances [last three words in English]. Still, despite all this, one must act wisely. [end recording]

DAYAN INTERVIEWED AFTER PEACE TREATY SIGNING

TA270840 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0605 GMT 27 Mar 79 TA

[From a special Morning Newsreel; interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan by political correspondent Shalom Qital in Washington after the signing of the peace treaty--recorded]

[Text] [Qital--begin recording] Mr Foreign Minister, how do you feel after the signing?

[Dayan] I am very happy, and I am also excited. My excitement is not emotional, but political, and so is the happiness: It is not a family rejoicing or a party in Nahalal [Dayan's native moshav]. It is happiness over realizing how important everything is in political terms. The value of this peace is, in my opinion, first of all in the paper we wrote today. I know we all emphasize that the test will be in the implementation, and this is true. Nevertheless, for the moment I would like to put the emphasis on the paper signed today. The significance I see in this signing is that Egypt wrote and signed a paper, an agreement, which includes so many chapters and articles, which say that it is ending the state of war with Israel, and is switching to the framework of peaceful relations. Of course, the test will be in the implementation--whether indeed this is how things will be--but one must not underestimate this announcement and admission and this declaration, whose value is also in the very fact that it was made. Also, it does not only have to do with this declaration. Apparently there could even have been such a peace agreement, which would include only one sentence: that the state of war has ended and from now on there will be peaceful relations between the two countries. However, now we have nine chapters, and all kinds of accompanying documents intended to turn it into reality--a framework for a set of rules on the borders and the demilitarization and so on. Still I emphasize the first thing: that the president of Egypt, openly, no doubt with the consent of the Egyptian masses and despite the very heavy pressure from other Arabs, and with the support of the United States--to a large extent not just with its participation, but also with its help and its guarantee--says: After 30 years, we, the Egyptians, have decided to desert the way of war and the state of war with Israel and instead will erect with it a framework of peaceful relations.

[Question] Will this framework of peaceful relations, in your opinion, continue even with the difficult issue still to be discussed--the issue of autonomy, the Palestinian issue--even if this issue causes difficulties and misunderstandings between ourselves and the Egyptians?

[Answer] I think that the ending of the state of war will continue even in this case. I think this will hold true even if there are many difficulties on this issue of autonomy. First of all, because Egypt needs peace to pursue a different economic and political path, and secondly, because it has separated from the Soviet Union and formed ties with the United States. It is very hard to imagine that the United States would help Egypt prepare for war against Israel. We know we have grudges against the United States, but there is a limit to the fears and the suspicions one can have toward the United States. There are two initial components--the domestic, economic and other Egyptian needs, and the superpower with which it is connected--which will make it very difficult, almost impossible, for Egypt to pursue the path of war. However, even the third reason--the 3 years before us, 2 of which will be after the negotiations on autonomy, during which we will continue to remain in the eastern half of the Sinai--is not only very important for us but also very important for the Egyptians. This includes Sharm ash-Shaykh, the airfields and the settlements there, all that part. Well, when you ask how the negotiations will affect autonomy and how will the difficulties which might arise in the course of these negotiations impose difficulties on the implementation of the peace agreement, I say: These negotiations will continue for a year. But 2 years later we will remain in the eastern half of the Sinai and the Egyptians will have to decide whether they want to blow up the agreement and have us remain in that half because our views differ on this issue of autonomy, or whether they will not put the entire weight of blowing up the agreement on the scales of the autonomy negotiations. Certainly, to a large extent, this also depends on how wide the gap between the positions is and what the Israeli conduct and approach to this matter will be. Nevertheless I can say that if our approach is constructive and sincere--we have proposed an autonomy plan, and we want to implement it, perhaps not as Mustafa Khalil or even As-Sadat see it, but we sincerely want to implement it and not just hide behind it--because of this, in my opinion, even if difficulties emerge, it will not hamper at last the basic part of peace. They might recall the ambassador or something like that, but Egypt will not return to the path of war because of the elements I have listed.

[Question] What will happen on the Palestinian issue? Do you not fear an erosion in the U.S. position in that it will show a tendency to negotiate with the PLO?

[Answer] No, I have no such fear. I do not think so: not beyond what they have so far been prepared to do. In the agreement we have just signed, in the Memorandum of Understanding, the United States reaffirms its position on the PLO--the very same position it has taken in the past--namely: That as long as the PLO does not recognize Israel and so on, it will not conduct negotiations with it. I cannot see any change in the U.S. position. I cannot see a change in the PLO's position. On the contrary, that entire rejectionist front and the events in Iran do not indicate any softening. I am not talking about a tactical softening of the PLO--from time to time they throw out words and half-promises. Basically I cannot see any change in the PLO position, nor do I see a change in the U.S. position.

Therefore, I see no room for an erosion of the U.S. position on this issue.

[Question] Finally Mr Dayan, for many years, and largely in the last 2 years, you have dealt mainly with one issue: an attempt to attain a peace agreement with an Arab country. You have achieved this. What now?

[Answer] Personally? Well, this is not an issue for a radio conversation. However, let us not talk about me but about the State of Israel. It was not just I who dealt with it and wanted it: The State of Israel dealt with it, the Cabinet dealt with it, the people of Israel wanted it. The answer has two parts which are public not personal. First of all, we must realize the things determined in the written framework. In these 3 years we will have to determine the framework of everyday life and reality between ourselves and Egypt, and this is not a minor or small thing. A lot of work will have to be devoted to this in all fields. And secondly, the next issue is already knocking at the door: the issue of autonomy. There is a connection of some sort between it and the Israeli-Egyptian issue. However, it is also an issue of utmost importance in itself. Therefore, if you ask about the political issue--what now, not in terms of me personally, but with respect to Israel--in my opinion the answer lies in these two issues. [end recording]

PRESIDENT NAVON ISSUES STATEMENT TO ISRAELI PEOPLE

TA262135 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1953 GMT 26 Mar 79 TA

[Statement to the Israeli People by President of the State Yitzhaq Navon on the occasion of the signing of the peace treaty on 26 March--live, in the studio]

[Text] Good evening and good signing. This is a decisive hour in our history, unique and special. I feel the inner need and duty to send the blessings of the entire people of Israel to the signatories on the peace treaty--supporters and opposers will certainly participate in this blessing--to Prime Minister Menahem Begin on the rare experience he has just gone through. Probably, the story of his life, the story of the difficult and exhausting negotiations for peace, his inner struggle with himself arose before him at the moment of the signing. With stubbornness and inexhaustible efforts he strove toward this peace treaty until he signed it. We wish him a good signing with the other Arab countries.

To the Egyptian leader, Anwar as-Sadat, the man of beliefs and the countryman, who from his youth has fought for the liberation of his people--blessings and our appreciation for his daring, with courage and with insight, to break the walls of hostility, for making his people look inside themselves and toward the future. The revolution he caused with his act will in the end have its influence on the other Arab countries.

To the friend of Israel, President Carter, we send our loyal feelings of gratitude for not despairing even in difficult times and for steering the ship toward its final port and thus, succeeding in growing buds of peace in the land of the Bible, on whose values he grew from childhood.

Gentlemen, in the public there is a cautious happiness, doubts and mixed feelings. The truth is that we have not been spoiled by sharp and clear feelings ever since we came to this land.

The Jewish expressions are characteristic: Serve the Lord with fear, with trembling; I was fearful in my belief; I was fearful in my rejoicing. It is not by accident that Memorial Day is celebrated close to Independence Day.

Where do the fears stem from? I think the fears stem from three main reasons: First, we have sacrificed so much--territory, strategy, airfields, oil, a big desert which separated us from Egypt. Second, there is a vagueness about the future: autonomy, and future negotiations regarding autonomy. And third, opposition is voiced by Jordan, Syria, Iraq and of course, the PLO. Peace is not comprehensive yet.

This eastern front, although it is strong, should not particularly worry us because--we have found the need from time to time to remember this--the IDF is strong, it has great potential. In spite of all these doubts, the decision has been made. The Knesset decisions should be respected and we should face the next stages as a united people in spite of the differences of opinion.

Perhaps it is also desirable to pay some attention, in a few sentences, to the nature of the country with which we signed the peace treaty, Egypt. In their opinion, this is a culture of thousands of years. They mix the ancient Egyptian culture, Arab culture, Muslim culture. Its citizens today number 40 million; in the year 2,000, according to some estimates, its population will reach 70 million. Each year Egypt's population grows by 1 million people. They face difficult problems, problems of earning a living and housing. However, among this large population, there is an intelligentsia of 7 to 8 million people. Today, some 450,000 students are studying there. This is a good people basically, with a good sense of humor, they can laugh at themselves.

Egypt is a cultural center to the entire Arab world. All the social, national, religious movements grew up there, in Egypt. Egypt was the pioneer in meeting the modern world. They do not have the same feeling of isolation from the Arab world, they feel that the Arab world needs them no less than before. Some 200,000 Egyptians work in Libya, without them Libya will not be able to survive. Thousands of Egyptians work as teachers and engineers in all the Arab countries. The impact of this act must reach the other Arab countries as well. We would like this peace not only to be founded on a treaty, but also on direct contacts between us and the Egyptian people. In order to achieve this end, we should be very sensible in this meeting not to be the arrogant Israeli, not to boast, not to come to them with a sneering attitude. We should remember elemental things: manners, respect, honoring your friend and his culture. I think that if all these things are realized, we will reach close relations with the Egyptian people beyond the era of the present leaders.

There will be problems in the future: They will crop up and we will treat them accordingly. Rabbi Gamli'el's daughter, upon her wedding, asked for her father's blessing and he said: My daughter, let complaints never leave your mouth. She said to him: Father, is this a blessing? The father answered: Yes my daughter, oh, my son did not eat; oh, my son has not come back from school yet. This sort of complaints, which involves creation and birth, I accept.

This is an historical event, in spite of all the fears and difficulties, I think we can allow ourselves to be happy on this day. Good evening.

NAVON MAKES SPEECH TO ARABS AFTER TREATY SIGNING

TA261641 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0805 GMT 26 Mar 79 TA

[Text] Below is a translation into Hebrew [from Arabic] of the speech by the president of the state, Mr Yitzhaq Navon, to the Arab people, which will be broadcast this evening to mark the ceremony of signing the peace agreement between Israel and Egypt:

To the Arab people wherever they may be: In a few hours our eyes will see the fulfillment of a dream we have nurtured in our hearts for dozens of years, the dream of peace blessed by the faiths and which the creator calls himself by its name. The leader of the Egyptian nation, the greatest of the Arab peoples, and the prime minister of Israel will set their signatures on the document which will symbolize the end of the bloodshed, suffering and destruction and the beginning of a period of hope, light and building.

This is not a partial agreement, nor an interim agreement, but a peace agreement. This is not a separate agreement, but a first agreement, in the wake of which--so we all want and hope--further agreements with the rest of the neighboring Arab countries will come. Egypt was, this time too, guide and pioneer in the Arab camp, as it has always been in each and every sphere. I see it as an honorable duty to express my feeling here: our deep admiration for the noble Egyptian nation which decided to turn its face and strength toward the productive future and to let the bitterness of the past and the suffering be carried away forever, with the Nile, to the great sea.

The Egyptian nation is doing this under the leadership and blessed influence of Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat who knew, with his courageous actions and foresight, how to write a new and shining page in the history of his nation and of the whole region.

Peace has been the heart's desire of the State of Israel since its foundation. The idea of peace has been held deep in the hearts of the Jewish people throughout all its generations. The peace agreement was made possible because of Israel's willingness to make many and painful sacrifices for its sake. With full awareness and clear knowledge it is taking upon itself many risks in order to permit the tender shoots of peace to grow, blossom and bring forth fruit. It is doing this under the courageous and farseeing leadership of Menahem Begin, who has invested ceaseless efforts to obtain this blessed objective.

The two nations were helped by a third party, the President of the United States, who did not spare himself trouble and effort to permit the sides to overcome the difficult and complicated problems. At times it appeared that we had reached a dead end, but the firm, sincere will of the nations pushed the wagon of peace forward to its last stop.

Gentlemen, the peace agreement which is to be signed this evening is an historic event; but peace is a continuing process, it must be built with endless patience, with mutual concessions, abandoning previous habits of thought to which we have become accustomed over dozens of years. The great and historic moment of making peace between the nationalist Arab movement and the nationalist movement of the Jewish nation has arrived. I appeal from here to the honorable kings of the Arabs and their presidents, to listen to the bell of history sounding out new tones today.

The region has tried the path of emnity and war. That path solved nothing, it only added destruction and blood, graves and ruins. The new way, although it is not clear of obstacles, will in the end lead to a solution for the problems and will carry the members of the great Arab people to a future full of joy and creativity. The peace caravan is marching on, do not throw stones at it. On the contrary, travel with it and give it your blessings; he who blesses, will be blessed by the heavens. The young generation is entitled to know and feel that new horizons have opened up to it, filled with hope and joy.

And to my brothers, the Arab inhabitants of Israel, I say: You have been living in Israel as citizens with equal rights for more than 30 years. You know the country and its institutions, you are an integral part of them. You know the people living in Israel and its genuine desire for peace. You yourselves have prayed for peace over all the years. An honorable and important share in creating the atmosphere befitting peace rests in your hands. Some of the depression found amongst you springs from the state of war which has always prevailed between Israel and its neighbors. With the coming of peace this depression, too, will be removed.

You are a firm bridge to peace. I am confident that your excellent skills and your great vigor will find new and constructive horizons in the new era of peace. I appeal at this moment to the respected inhabitants of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, to open their hearts and look with hope and optimism at the new process.

The peace agreement with Egypt has not abandoned you, it has been agreed between the sides that, in the framework of autonomy, you will participate actively in determining your future and your fate. An important role has been set for you in building the peace. Not the rule of one nation over another, but mutual understanding and cooperation. The bitter past must give way to the optimistic future, for the sake of a better life for your children and grandchildren.

Let us work together for a future of construction, not destruction; planting, not uprooting; living, not dying; prosperity, not proverty; production, not destruction.

If there is the will, all these words will become living, true reality.

It is my prayer to the creator that He will indeed give us all this will.

LABOR PARTY STATEMENT WELCOMES PEACE TREATY

TA261208 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 26 Mar 79 p 2 TA

[Text] On the day of signing the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, the camp of the Labor movement is sending its congratulations to the Egyptian president, the Israeli prime minister, the U.S. President and all those working to create the conditions allowing a breakthrough toward a peaceful life and cooperation between the Egyptian and Israeli people after 30 years of emnity. This was stated yesterday in a statement released by the Labor Party reactions team.

"Peace has always been the heart's desire of the people in Israel and its leaders. We must now dedicate ourselves to strengthening the peace, to maintaining it against all those wishing it ill and to deepening the fruitful cooperation between the countries."

The Labor Party reactions team expresses its hope that peace with Egypt will serve as a positive turning point in the region.

The Labor Party will act toward promoting the chances for a comprehensive peace with all our neighbors and toward finding a solution to the Palestinian problem with the framework of a Jordanian-Palestinian state. The Labor Party will act to prevent the autonomy plan from becoming an element that will frustrate Israel's peace and security.

The signing of the peace treaty must open a new era of creation in the Zionist spirit, economic strengthening, social progress, increase in immigration and overall strengthening of values and morals.

DETAILS OF 26 MARCH CABINET SESSION REPORTED

TA261737 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 27 Mar 79 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] The Israeli Military Government Command will be removed from the Gaza Strip after the peace agreement is signed. This was one of the issues which were agreed upon last night in the talk between Prime Minister Menahem Begin and the president of Egypt, Anwar as-Sadat, in Washington. This was reported today by the acting prime minister, Minister Zevulun Hammer, to the ministers--those who remained in Jerusalem--at a special Cabinet session. Here is our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer to give further details:

Next Monday the prime minister, as far as can be seen, will appear before the Egyptian Parliament in Cairo. This will be in the framework of the return visit Mr Begin will make to Egypt. The visit will last for 1 day and the prime minister will be accompanied only by his wife, his friends and a group of journalists. The acting prime minister, Minister Zevulun Hammer, reported on this visit to his ministerial colleagues in the Knesset building in Jerusalem this afternoon.

Mr Begin who spoke with his acting prime minister, said that his talk with President as-Sadat last night took place in a very good atmosphere. Mr Begin revealed that President as-Sadat had explained to him why he could not now visit Jerusalem. Jerusalem's status as the capital of Israel had recently hit the headlines, the Egyptian President said. He could not now, when an international argument was going on over the question of the status of Jerusalem, visit it.

From the report given by the prime minister it emerges that Israel has agreed to make several unilateral moves toward Egypt in the wake of the signing of the peace agreement with it. Israel will, in the near future remove the Military Government Command from Gaza. Israel will make an effort so that IDF forces will not move through areas populated by Arab inhabitants in the territories--in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. In the future the same freedom for political activity and freedom of movement in the territories will be permitted, as is the custom today. President Carter will announce these steps in a letter to the prime minister of Egypt, Mustafa Khalil.

Israel has not agreed to take the Military Government Command out of Bayt El. Neither will anything be mentioned in the letter President Carter will send to Khalil about the release of security prisoners, as Egypt had requested earlier. These actions will be taken within the next few months during the negotiations on the nature of autonomy. It is known that Minister Hayim Landau expressed his opposition to these gestures, but it must be said that the members of the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs, who are now in Washington, knew about the secret and approved the gestures.

Mr Begin also reported to his acting prime minister on the agreement achieved regarding the evacuation of the oilfields in Sinai.

It emerges that Egypt has guaranteed to supply Israel with oil which will be transferred to Elat in Israeli tankers even after the 9 months of the evacuation of the oil fields. Israel has agreed to evacuate the oilfields in Sinai 7 months after the beginning of the IDF withdrawal.

Acting Prime Minister Zevulun Hammer reported to Mr Begin on what is happening in the territories and the security situation on the northern border. You can relax, Minister Hammer told the prime minister. Let us point out that this afternoon Minister Sharon did not attend the session to hear the report Minister Hammer gave the ministers, a report on the latest agreements in the negotiations which will, as stated, end with the signing of the peace agreement in Washington.

MILITARY GOVERNMENT SETS UP COUNCILS IN JUDAEA, SAMARIA

TA261857 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 26 Mar 79 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] In view of the signing of the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt and the beginning of the discussions on autonomy in Judaea and Samaria, the Judaea and Samaria headquarters hastened to set up three Jewish regional councils in Judaea and Samaria and nominated a commissioner for these councils. Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh learned about the new development today:

[Begin recording] The names of the three Jewish regional councils which have already been established in the autonomy boundaries follow: the Jordan Valley Regional Council composed of 20 settlements from Mehola in the north to Ma'ale Ha'admim in the east; the Bet El Regional Council composed of 10 settlements, including 'Ofra and Bet El; and the Shomron Regional Council composed of the 7 settlements of Gush Emunim. In total, 27 Jewish settlements existing already.

In order to enable the Judaea and Samaria commander, Brig Gen Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, to set up the councils, the deputy director general of the Interior Ministry, Dr Me'ir Shaham, in his capacity as coordinator of domestic affairs in the territories, issued a decree regarding the administration of regional councils in Judaea and Samaria. Following this decree, the commander of the area issued a detailed and comprehensive set of decrees and nominated a special commissioner on his behalf, a man named Shlomo 'Amar.

In the commander's decrees, it is stated that he is acting in his capacity as commander according to all rules and regulations on security. From now on, the regional councils will grant municipal status to the Jewish settlements in the autonomy boundaries and will formulate their rules of operation. The decrees determine that the commissioner will nominate the members of the first regional councils. Only later will elections to the regional councils be held. Each council will constitute a legal corporation and it will be permitted to sign contracts, purchase and hold land. The decrees were valid on the day they were signed, from 20 March 1979, only 6 days ago.

The inhabitants of the Jordan Valley were surprised at the decrees. They expressed anger at the nomination of a commissioner who is unknown to them and they regard this action, which was done without consulting them, as proof of the fact that in the near future they are in for further surprises. [end recording]

USSR CALLS FOR ACTION AGAINST ISRAEL, EGYPT

TA261835 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 26 Mar 79 TA

[Text] Here is a report we have just received from our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus:

The Soviet Union calls on the Arab countries to foil the agreement signed between Egypt and Israel. A few minutes ago Radio Moscow broadcast a joint announcement summing up the visit by the Soviet foreign minister, Andrey Gromyko, to Damascus. Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that the communique calls on the Arab countries to crystallize, at the Baghdad conference which is to meet tomorrow, a plan of action to foil the surrender agreement and to coordinate their actions with the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union and Syria agree that the agreement achieved in Washington has created a most dangerous situation in the Middle East.

REACTION TO GROMYKO TALKS IN DAMASCUS REPORTED

TA261111 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 26 Mar 79 p 3 TA

[By Yehoshu'a Tadmor]

[Excerpts] Senior observers in Jerusalem yesterday assessed that the Soviet foreign minister's visit to Damascus is mainly a diplomatic move to demonstrate a presence and does not herald any surprising development in the future. Yesterday Gromyko conferred for a second meeting with President al-Asad. The meeting lasted for about 4 hours, and, according to Damascus sources, focused on the chances of resuming the Geneva Conference as a substitute for the Camp David agreements.

The Soviet News Agency TASS reported that Gromyko also conferred yesterday with the PLO head, Yasir 'Arafat, who is currently staying in Damascus.

The Jerusalem sources note that a covert "red line" has lately been created in the Soviet-U.S. relations in everything pertaining to the Middle East, after U.S. administration leaders made it clear to the Kremlin leaders that any crossing of this line will be considered a blow to U.S. vital interests.

The main reason behind Gromyko's visit is to consult, discuss and weigh, together with Syria, how to react, in a controlled manner, to the U.S. policy in the Middle East in the long run. It is possible that in the course of the visit it will be agreed to supply the Syrian Army with additional arms, although this subject is not within Gromyko's direct field of treatment.

There is a conviction in Jerusalem that the Soviets do not at this stage support extreme moves and heating up of the border, and are surely opposed to a war between Israel and the rejectionist countries for reasons connected with the future of Washington-Moscow relations.

FIVE PEOPLE WOUNDED IN EAST JERUSALEM EXPLOSION

TA262030 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 26 Mar 79 TA

[Text] Five tourists were wounded when a handgrenade was thrown at the Halil Rahman restaurant in Beyt Habad Street in the old city of Jerusalem at 2100 this evening. This restaurant is located near the Jewish quarter in the old city. The security forces have arrested several persons and are continuing to search the area. The wounded were initially transferred to the Hospice Hospital and later to the Sha'are Tzedeq and Hadassa Hospital.

WOMAN KILLED, SEVERAL INJURED IN LOD EXPLOSION

TA270912 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 27 Mar 79 TA

[Text] There was an explosion this morning in the Lod market. One woman was killed and 17 people were wounded, three of them have moderate to severe injuries. As a result of the explosion, several Arabs in the market were beaten by enraged citizens. The police have detained several dozen suspects. Business in the market was resumed less than an hour ago.

MORE REPORTAGE ON EVENTS, ACTIVITIES OF 21 MARCH

Ahvaz Announcements

DO211900 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1416 GMT 21 Mar 79 DO

[Announcement from the Islamic Association of Khuzestan]

[Excerpt] Dear listeners, at this moment I invite you to listen to two announcements:

In the name of the Almighty, all fellow residents are hereby informed that Professor Dr ('Ali Sadeqi) of the Islamic Association of Students of America and Canada will be speaking on Saturday, 24 March, at 1700 in the gymnasium of the University of Ahvaz. He will present an address with the title "Islamic Economy." Of course, this announcement is from the Islamic Association of Khuzestan.

As for the next announcement, it is from the college of literature of the University of Ahvaz. In order to celebrate these days of song and happiness following the victory, the community is invited to see a display set up in the college of literature.

Shiraz Anniversary

DO211915 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1416 GMT 21 Mar 79 DO

[Summary] "I am speaking from Shiraz. Our bloodstained revolution brought us freedom with the pure blood of the martyrs. On these first days of freedom accept our congratulations. The memory of the 2d of Farvardin [22 March] has not been forgotten. (?The raid of the mercenaries of the regime against the city) of Qom on the 2d of Farvardin in 1342 [22 March 1963] marks the beginning of the calendar of the Islamic struggle in the capital of the multipartisan movement of the people of Iran." Tomorrow will be the 2d of Farvardin. In order to salute and revere the memory of our fallen martyrs the people of Shiraz are asked to join a gathering tomorrow in the courtyard of the [words indistinct]. On this occasion the respected scholar Dr (Bahonar) will deliver a public address.

Shiraz Martyrs

DO211945 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1531 GMT 21 Mar 79 DO

[Excerpt] This Nawruz will be observed without the physical presence of our martyrs. This spring is beginning with just the memory of those martyrs who brought freedom to our midst. May the Lord add to their rewards the blessing of tranquility.

Today, Wednesday the 1st of Farvardin 1358 [21 March] the people of Shiraz have held ceremonies in memory of their dearly departed who sacrificed their life's blood in order to defend the independence of Iran, to strengthen the foundation of that independence, and to promote the glory of Islam. The families of the martyrs and those who value the establishment of freedom are in mourning, and they have asked their creator to grant salvation to the martyrs. We, too, share the sense of grief, but we also have the feeling of victory and appreciation.

MORE REPORTAGE ON EVENTS, INCIDENTS OF 22 MARCH

Workers' Holiday Leave

D0221900 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1413 GMT 22 Mar 79 DO

[Text] The following announcement concerns the employees of the national oil company. In the name of the Almighty, dear fellow workers: In accordance with the previous circular discussing the leave schedule for this year's Nawruz holidays, it is hereby announced that the leave period has been extended from 2 to 5 days. Thus, those dear workers who are engaged in shift work or in nonessential tasks will be on leave status until Sunday, 5 Farvardin 1358 [25 March 1979]. The first workday will be Monday, 6 Farvardin.

[Signed] Jahangir (Ga'uchi), supervisor of the oil interests.

Martyrs Memorial Services

D0221915 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1413 GMT 22 Mar 79 DO

[Text] The following announcement concerns a meeting and public address. In the name of God, tomorrow, Friday, Professor Jalaloddin (Paris) will be speaking in the A'zam Hoseyneyeh at 1000 on the occasion of a memorial service for the victorious martyrs. In addition, he will present other public lectures according to the following schedule: Khorramshahr on Friday evening in the Imam Sadeq Mosque, and Dezful on Saturday evening in the Friday Mosque. By your attendance at these gatherings, you will present your personal (?salute) to the martyrs of the (?blood-stained) road of the Islamic revolution.

MORE REPORTAGE ON EVENTS, INCIDENTS OF 23 MARCH

Relatives Visiting Prisoners

ID231524 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Mar 79 ID

[Text] According to information we have received, at the command of Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Iranian Islamic revolution, and on instructions from Mr Hadavi, general prosecutor of all Islamic courts, 250 prisoners affiliated with the previous regime will meet their immediate relatives today. It should be noted that another 500 prisoners have met their families in the past few days, and arrangements for meetings by other prisoners--provided they are not being held incommunicado--will be made in the next 2 or 3 days. The method of arranging visits, and visiting hours and other details will be communicated by telephone to the families of the prisoners. The families are requested not to visit the prisons before they are told to do so by telephone.

Rally in Salmas

ID231526 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Mar 79 ID

[Text] Various classes of the citizens of Salmas held a rally in the city's municipality square. The meeting was addressed first by His Reverence Mohammad Ghaffari, the representative of the Imam Khomeyni in that city, on the concept of an Islamic republic. In conclusion, a six-point resolution was read. During the meeting, the people of Salmas called on the Provisional Government of Engineer Bazargan for a peaceful solution to the question of Kurdish autonomy.

PLO Delegation to Mashhad

DO231715 Mashhad Domestic Service in Persian 1416 GMT 23 Mar 79 DO

[Text] A group of fighters from the Palestine Liberation Organization accompanied by a number of brothers from the Central Committee of Imam Khomeyni came to Mashhad on 23 March for a visit and exchange of views concerning the Iranian Islamic revolution. They will also familiarize the guardinans of the revolution with military principles. They were received in the officers club of the (59th) division of Khorasan by the (?staff committee for the execution of the imam's orders) in Mashhad. These brothers will deliver an address to the struggling fellow city residents and Muslims at 0900 on Saturday, 4 Farfardin [24 March], in Imam Khomeyni square.

Tabriz Demonstrations

ID231916 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Mar 79 ID

[Text] At the invitation of the Islamic Republican Party in Tabriz, more than 300,000 residents of Tabriz staged demonstrations commemorating the anniversary of the events at the Feyziyeh school in Qom, and the fourteenth [word indistinct] of Iran's Islamic revolution. During these demonstrations, they stressed their support for the leader of Iran's Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni. Mr Mussavi Ardabili, accompanied by a PLO representative, made some statements. Demonstrations similar to this were also held in other cities.

Surrender of Weapons

ID231831 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Mar 79 ID

[Text- The following circular was issued today by the Iranian Islamic revolutionary public prosecutor: On the basis of a request made by a number of personnel of the now defunct SAVAK as regards extending the period to surrender weapons until 30 March 1979, this is to inform everyone that all those working for SAVAK and the Imperial Guard of the former regime who are in possession of any weapons must surrender them by the end of 30 March to the office of the revolutionary public prosecutor, situated in Tehran, Old Shemiran Road, the headquarters of the former regime's military tribunal. Otherwise, they will be considered counterrevolutionaries, will be arrested and severely punished.

MORE REPORTAGE ON EVENTS, INCIDENTS OF 24 MARCH

Voting Facilities Abroad

ID241521 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Mar 79 ID

[Text] Regarding the referendum, the Foreign Ministry spokesman reports: In order to facilitate the participation in the referendum of Iranian residents in foreign countries, special offices have been opened in Iranian embassies and consulates in all countries. Even Iranians who are only visiting abroad, by bringing their passports or identity cards, may come to these offices and cast their votes in the polling boxes.

Delegation in Sari

D0241728 Sari Domestic Service in Persian 1434 GMT 24 Mar 79 D0

[Text] In the name of the Almighty, according to information received from the Islamic revolution committee of the city of Sari, a delegation of representatives sent by Imam Khomeyni arrived in Sari this afternoon. The delegation is headed by His Holiness (Seyyed Ne'matollah Qaderi Ara'i), and they will be cooperating and exchanging views with the Islamic committee of the city of Sari in preparation for holding the referendum. They will also (?help clarify) the concepts of the Islamic republic.

Shiraz Student Martyr

D0241747 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1620 GMT 24 Mar 79 D0

[Text] In the name of the Almighty: In order to revere the memory of the martyr who died under torture, (Seyyed Reza Divaj), a student in his last year of psychology in the University of Shiraz, a memorial ceremony will be held tomorrow. He was killed by the hand of the wicked agents of SAVAK. The ceremony will take place tomorrow morning, Sunday 5 Farvardin [24 March] at 0830 in the (?ruins) of the SAVAK facilities on Zand Avenue.

All students and those concerned with the fate of the martyrs are invited to participate.

[Signed] The staff of the Guardians of the Islamic Revolution, Fars Province.

Revolutionary Guards' Announcement

LD241707 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1610 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The following announcement was made by command headquarters of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards:

Dear brothers and sisters, the command headquarters of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards expects all dear compatriots to cooperate, as in the past, with responsible officials and with the committees of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards in identifying counter-revolutionary elements for the purpose of advancing and attaining the objectives of the revolution, by discovering and neutralizing their plots and treacherous and anti-national acts.

The command headquarters of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards is prepared to render all types of cooperation and assistance. The dear brothers and sisters can contact this headquarters by telephone on No 234219, 234220, 234121 and 234141, so as to make their information available to the guards headquarters.

Khomeyni Meets Soviet Envoy

LD241737 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Mar 79 LD

[Text] According to information received from the publicity office of Imam Khomeyni, leader of Iran's Islamic revolution, the ambassador of the Soviet Union met with Imam Khomeyni in Qom this afternoon and held discussions with him.

MORE REPORTAGE ON EVENTS, INCIDENTS OF 25 MARCH

Earthquake Southwest of Tehran

LD250752 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 25 Mar 79 LD

[Text] According to Tehran's geophysical institute, at 0603 an earthquake with a force of 3.5 on the Richter scale rocked an area 150 km southwest of Tehran. There has been no report of casualties yet.

Ahvaz City Police

DO251311 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1228 GMT 25 Mar 79 DO

[Text] The following is an announcement from the Khuzestan police headquarters: In the name of the Almighty, the police headquarters of Khuzestan Province asks all officers, NCO's, men and employees living in the city of Ahvaz to come to the new Ahvaz police headquarters located on Zand Avenue. They should report in uniform at the beginning of office hours on Monday, 26 March, in order to start work, and to meet the new supervisors of the police units of Khuzestan.

Tabriz Security for Bazargan

DO251324 Tabriz Domestic Service in Persian 1723 GMT 25 Mar 79 DO

[Text] In the name of the Almighty, all personnel of the garrison, gendarmerie, police and air force of Tabriz are hereby informed that they are to come to the (Park-e Shemal) tomorrow at 0900 in official dress in order to hear the address by Mr Mehdi Bazargan, the provisional prime minister. If needed, they are to cooperate with the personnel of the groups of the Tabriz Islamic revolution and with the other officials in protecting the law and order.

[Signed] Supervisor of the Tabriz garrison, Staff Colonel Javad (Nosbatnuri).

Qashqa'i Tribesmen of Khuzestan

DO251637 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1457 GMT 25 Mar 79 DO

[Text] We have a message from the Qashqa'i tribesmen living in Khuzestan. The message explains that at the invitation of the Qashqa'i living in Khuzestan, Mr Khosrow Qashqa'i will be coming to this province. He will speak in the (Jahan Pahlavan) Takhti stadium in Ahvaz on the subject of the revolution's support for the rights of the Iranian nation under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni. He will arrive at 1000 on Monday in the facilities of the (?Dara-ye Haft Gel) in Ahvaz, and he will give his speech on Monday at 1600 in the Takhti stadium.

Turkoman Leaders on Islamic Republic

DO251655 Sari Domestic Service in Persian 1436 GMT 25 Mar 79 DO

[Text] In the name of the Almighty, this announcement was issued today by the respected religious elders of (Torkoman Sahra): Brothers and sisters of the (Torkoman Sahra) area, the religious elders of the Sunni community and the Turkoman (?people) are unanimous in their vote for the Islamic republic. We ask you dear people to vote only for the Islamic republic which will insure all of your human, religious and social rights.

[Signed] The religious elders of the Sunni community and (?the people) of (Torkoman Sahra). [names indistinct]

Referendum in Mazandaran

DO251714 Sari Domestic Service in Persian 1442 GMT 25 Mar 79 DO

[Text] In the name of the Almighty, all brothers and sisters of the Mazandarin area are hereby informed that the referendum will take place on Friday. Prepare your identity card and do not give your card to anyone else. The presence of various stamps on your identity card will not cause any problems during the referendum. All brothers and sisters whose age is 16 or above may participate in the referendum.

Esfahan Arrests

LD251800 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Mar 79 LD

[Text] According to reports by our correspondent from Esfahan, today Khosrow Bukha, one of the active members of the dissolved SAVAK organization, was arrested together with several other SAVAK agents of the cruel monarchical regime. The prosecutor's office of the Iranian Islamic revolution in Esfahan announced in a statement that those persons who have complaints against the arrested individuals should report to the prosecutor's office in Esfahan and have their proof in hand. Those who have been arrested are: Sadeq Radkhah, Abolhasan Dehrowshan, Khosrow Bukha, Karamatollah Sharafoddin, Kamal 'Adid, Azizollah Hadavi, Captain Ebrahim Jahanqorban and Mahmud Agha'i Hakkak. These persons were among the torturors and officials of SAVAK in Esfahan.

Bazargan at Tabriz College

LD252039 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1714 GMT 25 Mar 79 LD

[Iranian Prime Minister Bazargan's speech at the Tabriz college of agriculture, delivered in the afternoon of 25 March--recorded]

[Excerpt] I had a discussion with a close friend about a month ago. He advocated that the future Islamic republic and Islamic government revert to the most simple system of administration and organization. Now he is himself a highly educated and knowledgeable man, with an advanced educational background both in Iran and the United States, a man whose views I value greatly. I cited an example to him by saying that if Iran were a country all by itself and had surrounded itself with a wall, perhaps this could be done. But let me start by citing what the enemy has in his possession. Everyone of you knows that Iran has not been nor will it ever be without any enemy. When the enemy is equipped with the latest nuclear weapons, with weapons of the air, with missiles and other things--the enemy that attacks us and will attack us if there is a war--such an enemy cannot be halted with spears or swords or clubs. If we want to defend our country, our religion, our nationhood, our race and whatever, then we too must be equipped with the same weapons. And to have such weapons we need laboratories, universities, administrative organizations and thousands of other items of sophisticated equipment and organization. Unfortunately, we cannot have a simple life. Of course, an attack is not always manifested in the form of a military onslaught by missiles, artificial satellites, aircraft and such. A sustained attack against a country which cannot erect a wall around itself--something that no country can do--will be manifested in the form of an economic attack. If we want to live and remain independent, then it is obvious that this cannot be achieved without economic independence and economic strength.

Why is it that some 80 percent of our foodstuffs must be imported from abroad? The reason is that we cannot produce them at low prices. No matter what we, as a government, do, and even if we close the country to imports as a protective measure, we cannot produce butter, cheese, eggs, chickens and such for the people's consumption unless we turn our agricultural industry into a modern agriculture, into a Western agriculture, [words indistinct] a scientific agriculture, a social agriculture with the help of a great deal of capital invested in a calculated manner.

Once we agree that the economy is one of the bases and prerequisite for independence, and that the economy is an arena of competition, then we must equip ourselves. If they use computers in their hatcheries, then we must do the same; if they produce their butter, cheese and other products in the manner that they use, then we too must have an agricultural college with the best teaching staff and students who work hard to become experts in their future careers. The same applies to the intellectual domain. We cannot defend our ideas, our views and our ideology in the simple terms that prevailed 14, 20 or 30 centuries ago. No matter how much we may be convinced in our views and attached to our religion, and to our piety, we are inevitably subjected to intellectual onslaughts. This was true in the first and the second centuries of Islam when it was subjected to the onslaught of Greek philosophy and Greek science. What did our imams do? What did the Muslims of that time do? They did not say that because all that was Western it ought to be thrown out. They did not say it ought to be rejected because it was Greek.

On the contrary, the Muslims of that time translated their works and read them, and made use of them. Then, later, they developed them further. Whether we like it or not, life in the 20th century is a complex life, is a complicated life. It is a much more difficult life in the intellectual sense and in terms of efforts, struggle and endeavor than that which prevailed in the 19th century, in the 18th century, in the 17th century, or in the 6th or 5th centuries. We cannot turn our back on this fact. Today's confrontation, life today and the life of humanity, on the basis of the laws of evolution, calls for confrontation with numerous difficulties and problems, with insoluble complexities. All this requires that we work for and advance as far as possible in the areas of teaching, learning, research, investigation, thinking and gaining experience. Of course, when I say that life is complex and complicated, and that the course and nature of the world impose certain things upon us, it should not be misconstrued as advocating that we should seek luxury, light-hearted things, love of office and ostentatious things. The prophet says: Those who fear God, the pious ones, those who follow, these will not seek and will dislike things ostentatious.

However, none of this means that life should go back to what it used to be in some distant past, or that we should reject that which is efficient and necessary for the job and life as a minimum necessity, simply because it may have been imported from the West.

REPORTAGE ON EVENTS, INCIDENTS OF 26 MARCH

Khomeyni Account

LD260946 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The following circular was issued by the Qom Islamic cooperative society: In the name of God. The Qom Islamic cooperative society is honored to announce that the society's current account number 1000 has been allocated to Imam Khomeyni. As of this date, our brothers and sisters, whether in Iran or abroad, who wish to send cash or cheques to this account in Qom may do so through any bank in any part of the country.

Algerian Envoy in Tehran

LD260940 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Mr Mouloud Kassim Nait Arab, former religious affairs minister of Algeria and a member of the Central Committee of the Liberation Front, arrived in Tehran last night carrying a message from the Algerian president for Iman Khomeyni. During his visit he is expected to meet Prime Minister Bazargan and Foreign Minister Karim Sanjabi.

Radio Commentary on Referendum

LD262224 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1005 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Each person, whether in the newspapers or in interviews or at various meetings, has been expressing a different view of the nature of the forthcoming referendum. Thus, we would also like to express our view. If an Islamic republic is not the desire of the majority of our people, and if those who are against it should prove to be in the absolute majority, the form of referendum which the government has announced--namely, voting yes, in favor of an Islamic republic, or no, opposing an Islamic republic--would have been completely against the interests of an Islamic republic. This is because only one group will be voting in the affirmative, while many groups and parties will be voting collectively in the negative and saying no for different reasons. In this kind of voting, where different groups are voting collectively, it is quite possible that an Islamic republic could be rejected if such groups joined together.

It is precisely for this reason that we believe that this kind of referendum is more democratic than other forms. If it had been decided that all different forms of government would be listed for the referendum so that those who believe in each form could vote for it, there would be differences of opinion and split votes among those who oppose an Islamic republic. In that case, contrary to the present [words indistinct] it is more probable that the vote would be more favorable toward an Islamic republic.

So those who oppose an Islamic republic should join together and oppose it by casting a no vote. They should not deprive themselves, without cause, of taking part in shaping their destiny, because abstaining from the voting is not worthy of those who under the most difficult conditions were not indifferent to the destiny of the masses. By withdrawing to the fortress of abstention, they would cut themselves off from the good people and their votes.

Sanjabi Message to 'Arafat

LD261354 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD

[Text] In a message to Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, by Dr Karim Sanjabi, Iranian minister of Foreign Affairs, Sanjabi has announced the full support of the Iranian nation and the Provisional Government of Iran's Islamic revolution for the Palestinian people and the PLO as their only representative. The text of the message sent by the Iranian minister of foreign affairs is as follows:

Dear and revolutionary brother, Your Excellency Yasir 'Arafat: In these dangerous days when the heroic nation of Palestine faces another international plot against its legitimate rights, when the process of negotiation and conclusion of a peace treaty between the Government of Egypt and the Israeli administration has been arranged under the supervision of the United States against the Palestinian nation and other nations of Muslim brothers, and it is stabbing the Palestinians in the back, I have found it necessary once again to announce the full support of the Iranian nation and the Provisional Government of Iran's Islamic revolution for the people of Palestine and the PLO as their only representative.

Iran believes that any kind of negotiations and agreement without the total assertion of the rights of your oppressed nation, and without the active participation of the PLO for a true peace and for justice in the region, will have no other consequence but to increase international tension. The Islamic revolution of Iran considers the struggle of the Palestinian people as its own struggle, and considers among its main foreign policy duties the struggle of totally regaining the Palestinian people's rights.

I hope the Palestinian people, other Arab brothers and all other Muslim nations and other justice-seeking nations, through resistance and followup, will be able to continue to fight against all international plots until a total victory for the people of Palestine is achieved. [signed] Dr Karim Sanjabi.

Shari'at-Madari on Referendum

LD261330 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD

[Text] On the threshold of the referendum, His Great Eminence the Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari has issued an announcement addressed to the people of Iran. The text of the announcement by His Great Eminence the Ayatollah Shari'at-Madari is as follows:

In the name of the Almighty, the most compassionate, the most merciful: Beloved and fighting nation of Iran, in these days when preparations are being made throughout Iran for holding the referendum, we announce to the whole Iranian nation that the vote of every citizen in the referendum on Friday will have a very great and fundamental effect on the destiny of Iran. Now, after the continuous and decisive efforts of all the people have destroyed the dictatorial and idolatrous regime, in order to create a new order which will put into effect social and individual liberties in their true meaning within the framework of the progressive and lifegiving principles of Islam, all the people are dutybound to cast their vote and to express their opinion. While all the people of Iran have complete freedom in their opinions and in their votes, the only government in our opinion that can establish the freedom and the well-being of the whole nation and which, receiving its inspiration from the exalted Islamic teachings, can strengthen the unity and the solidarity of the nation and safeguard in the best possible way the rights of the minorities, is the government of an Islamic republic. Therefore, as I have previously stated, I shall personally vote for the Islamic republic in the referendum. I hope you, the noble and aware Islamic nation of Iran, when the most sensitive document in the history of the nation is drawn up next Friday, can once again demonstrate to the world your awareness and your social, political and Islamic maturity concerning the destiny of Iran. I beseech the Almighty for the progress and the well-being of the people of Iran by following the valuable teachings of Islam. 26 March, 1979.

[Signed] Seyyed Kazem Shari'at-Madari

Occupation of Egyptian Embassy

LD261216 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD

[Excerpt] In the early hours of this morning a group of young men calling themselves Arab students in Iran attacked the Egyptian Embassy in Tehran in a protest against the signing of a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. Having occupied the embassy, they flew the Palestinian flag over the embassy for a period of time. At the time of the incident, the Egyptian ambassador to Iran, as well as other members of the embassy staff, was not present in the embassy.

Tabriz Demonstration Against Treaty

LD261132 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Hundreds of thousands of citizens of Tabriz assembled today at Shari'at-Madari Square and some other spots in the city and then staged a march and demonstrations. The demonstrators, while strongly protesting against the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, condemned the U.S. imperialists counterrevolutionary and inhuman plots, and expressed their support for world Muslims and particularly the Palestinian people. The demonstrators, carrying portraits of national and religious leaders aloft, chanted such slogans as: Palestine Is Victorious, and Death to Israel and America. According to our correspondent's report, the demonstrations are to last until this evening.

Army Cadets on Treaty

LD261136 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The Islamic society of the military cadets of the Iranian Islamic National Army referred to the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty as unlawful in a statement issued today. The following is the text of the statement:

In the name of God: We, the cadets of the military academy of the Iranian Islamic National Army, express our profound and heartfelt solidarity for all our Muslim and liberal Arab brethren, particularly the struggling Palestinian nation, and herewith announce the unlawfulness of the disgraceful As-Sadat-Begin peace treaty, which is to be signed at the White House, to the world. We are always ready for any sacrifice for the sacred aspirations and liberation of Palestine, which is in line with the aspirations of the leader of the Iranian Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni. Down with the shameful peace treaty between As-Sadat and Begin and with U.S. mercenaries; long live the unbreakable bonds between the Iranian and Palestinian peoples; long live Khomeyni, greetings to 'Arafat.

Ayatollah Borujerdi Message

LD261140 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Haj Seyyed Mohammad Reza Borujerdi in a message addressed to Muslim leaders of the world calls on them to declare the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, in which the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people have been trampled, unlawful.

The message says that the imperialist-Zionist-colonial plot is a threat to Islamic societies, and that the religious Islamic leaders must resist this colonial design. The ayatollah then points out: A peace treaty in which the rights of all Palestinian people have not been observed and which does not determine the future of holy places is an unforgivable crime against Islam, which must be stopped with the utmost effort.

92d Armored Division Memorial

D0261539 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 26 Mar 79 D0

[Text] According to a PARS report from Ahvaz, during the first days of the springtime of freedom the men of the 92d Armored Division, Ahvaz, have gathered in the city cemetery and revered the memory of the martyrs of the Iranian revolution. The commander of the 92d Armored Division was present during the ceremonies, at which wreaths of flowers were left for the martyrs. The people of Ahvaz joined with the soldiers in paying their respects to the martyrs.

PLO Ceremonies in Ahvaz

D0261556 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 26 Mar 79 D0

[Text] During the first days of the new year, the PLO office organized a ceremony in Ahvaz commemorating the 11th anniversary of the Al-Karamah war. Following the recitation of selected passages from the glorious Koran, the gathering was addressed by the supervisor of the Jundishahpur University, whose brother was a martyr in the recent events. He was followed by the comments of Mr (Musavi), the representative of Imam Khomeyni and of the Islamic Republic Party in Ahvaz. Mr abu Ja'far, the director of the PLO office in Ahvaz, also presented a comparison of the Palestinian revolution with that of Iran. In his remarks, he recognized that the success of the Iranian revolution was a victory for Palestine as well. He also presented his salute to the pure martyrs of the Iranian and Palestinian revolutions.

Demonstration in Ahvaz

D0261411 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 26 Mar 79 D0

[Text] Good evening. With our greetings and congratulations on the arrival of the new year, we present the first newscast of the year. Before beginning the news, this information has just been given to me: At this moment, a large group of the people of Ahvaz are marching and demonstrating through the streets in opposition to the unilateral peace agreement between Egypt and Israel. The marchers are carrying pictures of Imam Khomeyni and Yasir 'Arafat, and a large number of placards and posters. Their signs carry slogans such as: Palestine! Iran Is Your Friend, and the people are expressing their solidarity with the Palestinian nation. The peace agreement between Egypt and Israel is sternly condemned.

Student Demonstration in Susangerd

D0261625 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 26 Mar 79 D0

[Text] According to our correspondent's report, the high school students of the boys' and girls' schools of Susangerd organized a demonstration this afternoon which is still in progress.

The demonstration is to express their opposition to the unilateral peace agreement between Egypt and Israel, and in order to declare their solidarity with the Palestine freedom fighters.

No Compensation on Contracts

LD261706 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD

[Text] 'Ali Ardalan, minister of finance and economic affairs, said in a statement that the government of Iran will not pay any compensation to companies whose contracts with Iran have been canceled.

Mazandaran Deputy Governor General

LD261848 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD

[Text] Minister of Interior Ahmad Sadr Seyyed-Javadi today appointed Mr Foruhesh as Mazandaran deputy governor general for administrative and political affairs.

Tehran Demonstration Against Treaty

LD261836 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD

[Text] At 1730 a crowd of more than 50,000 people, who began their march from the holy courtyard of the shrine of Her Holiness Ma'sumeh, went to the front of Imam Khomeyni's home, where they shouted slogans in support of the Palestine revolution and denounced the Egyptian-Israeli peace accord. The slogans included: Death to Carter! Death to As-Sadat and Begin! Israel shall be wiped out! Palestine shall triumph! This Madman As-Sadat in the Middle East Must Be Executed! and Islamic Republics Must Be Created in the Middle East! The imam also responded to the tumultous demonstrations of the people. At this point one of the demonstrators made certain remarks addressed to the imam. He said: Now that we have passed from the darkness of the Pahlavi dynasty to the light of the Islamic Republic, we regard you as our ruler from God. Your leadership will open the way not only for Iran but also for Muslims throughout the world, including the Middle East. We call upon you to demand that the Provisional Government most strongly denounce the shameful Egyptian-Israeli agreement, and express its full support for the Palestinian nation. We further demand that Zionist elements who are currently in Iranian prisons, including Amir 'Abbas Hoveyda--for whose reprieve traitorous elements outside the country are working now--be put on revolutionary trial and punished as soon as possible.

Spokesman on Egyptian Embassy

LD261838 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD

[Text] In an interview with a PARS correspondent tonight, an Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman, while expressing the full support and backing of the government of the Iranian Islamic revolution for the Palestine revolution, announced that he regarded the occupation of the Egyptian Embassy in Tehran as neither in the interest of the Iranian Islamic revolution nor in the interest of the revolution of the Palestinian nation. He added: The Palestine delegation in Tehran has officially notified the Iranian Foreign Ministry that those who occupied the Egyptian Embassy in Tehran today had nothing to do with the PLO. The Foreign Ministry spokesman added:

Following the occupation of the Egyptian Embassy, three persons went to the Egyptian Embassy on behalf of the Iranian Foreign Ministry. Following considerable discussions with the occupiers, they asked them to vacate the embassy as soon as possible. As a result, the occupiers have agreed to vacate the embassy by 0800 tomorrow and to return the embassy to the Egyptian delegation without causing the slightest damage to embassy property and installations. He added: The Foreign Ministry hopes that, bearing in mind the particular characteristics of the Iranian revolution, the occupiers of the embassy will honor their commitment. He said in conclusion: The Foreign Ministry further hopes that the struggling forces and others will bear in mind the imperatives of the Iranian revolution and refrain from repeating such incidents.

Regulations for Leaving Country

LD262208 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD

[Summary] The office of the prime minister today issued an announcement concerning Iranians who want to travel abroad. The statement says: "We apologize for whatever inconvenience may be caused to those dear compatriots who are planning to travel abroad and for some of the difficulties resulting from the need to exercise control in the interest of the nation, and from the new year holidays at executive agencies. These difficulties have caused inconvenience and have forced many to suspend their travel plans, particularly those needing medical treatment, students and Iranians residing abroad. Therefore, new regulations are announced governing leaving the country, renewing passports or issuing new ones, or renewing exit permits. It is hoped that dear compatriots will approach the matter with revolutionary patience, and overlook any delays which stem solely from an effort to observe the nation's interests."

Those who have a valid passport, with an exit stamp and without a restriction stamp, should report to the passport office with their passports and a photograph. These individuals should go to their travel agents and complete a form which has been made available to the travel agencies. They should give the form to the travel agency along with their passport. "The agency concerned will place the completed form with an attached photograph and the passport at the disposal of the Mehrabad Airport passport police for scrutiny and control 5 days before the flight departs, instead of 48 hours as was previously the case."

If the person concerned is not on the list of those who are banned from leaving the country, he or she may collect the passport at the airport on the departure date. On the other hand, if the person concerned is on the list he will be notified earlier by telephone. All questions in the form to be completed by travelers must be answered accurately. Those who fail to do so will be banned from leaving the country.

All government employees of any category whose government service has been terminated in the past 3 years for any reason will also need a letter of approval from the government agency where they last worked. "This letter should include a record of the employees' service during the last 3 years of his employment." A similar set of regulations apply to those living in the provinces.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Treaty

JN261944 Abadan International Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Mar 79 JN

["Text" of an Iranian Foreign Ministry statement issued today on the signing of the separate peace treaty between Egypt and Israel]

[Text] The main cause behind the crisis that stained the Middle East with blood, inflamed it and dragged its people into four regional and large-scale wars, and into perpetual fighting over the past 31 years, is the negligence and flouting of the Palestinian people's rights. (?Injustice) was condoned on an international level. Any solution that does not uproot the evils of the crisis cannot restore peace to the region and to the world. The signing of a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel that does not take into account the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, and which occurs without the Palestinian representatives' full participation, is a support for the expansionist policy of world Zionism, a violation of the Palestinian people's rights and a flouting of the principles of the UN Charter, which stipulate that other peoples' territories must not be taken by force. It is also a violation of UN Security Council Resolution No 242. This treaty, which regrettably was drafted by the present Egyptian Government and the usurper Government of Israel under the supervision and patronage of the United States, will only result in Israeli control over the occupied Arab territories, and in perpetuation of this, (?in accordance) with the imperialist policies in the region and in order to entrench U.S. imperialism's foothold in the area.

The Provisional Iranian Muslim Revolutionary Government affirms its full support for the Palestinian people and their sole legitimate representative, the PLO. The Iranian Government declares its support to the fraternal Arab nation that refused to accept this false peace, and denounces the signing of this treaty. The Iranian Government declares that the treaty will lead to the obliteration of the Palestinian people's rights, and will harm the Palestinian Muslim people and the rest of the peoples in the region. The government draws the attention of the signatories of the treaty to the threats it poses to world peace and security.

The Iranian Government declares that any solution to the Middle East crisis that does not take into account the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, and without the full participation of these people's representatives, will be null and void and rejected from the Iranian viewpoint. The Iranian Muslim people and their Provisional Muslim Revolutionary Government will exert their resources and forces to regain the Palestinian rights, and will fight against all violations of these rights.

Khomeyni Meets Algerian Envoy

LD261958 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD

[Text] This evening the supervisor of the radio and television of the Iranian Islamic revolution, accompanied by a team of newsmen from the first channel of French television and an Algerian delegation led by the Algerian Awqaf minister, who is representing the Algerian Revolutionary Council, were received by Imam Khomeyni in Qom and held an interview with him. At the meeting, a message from the Algerian president was delivered to Imam Khomeyni.

The Algerian presidential envoy expressed support for the Iranian Islamic revolution on behalf of the Algerian nation and noted the characteristics and difficulties which have been common to both the Iranian and Algerian revolutions. He said: We know that you are facing many domestic and foreign problems, but we hope that you will overcome all these domestic subversions, foreign problems and enemy plots.

Imam Khomeyni expressed thanks for the Algerian kindness. He said: We have shared the same situation in enduring the bitter experiences inflicted upon us during the period of colonialism. Over the 50 years of the Pahlavi reign, we endured the worst conceivable conditions, but eventually the Iranian revolution succeeded with the help of the strength of the people's faith.

Newspapers To Cease Publication

LD262145 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 26 Mar 79 LD

[Text] It has been reported today that Tehran's foreign language newspapers--TEHRAN JOURNAL, JOURNAL DE TEHRAN AND KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL--will cease publication as of tomorrow. According to a PARS report, the managements of the ETTELA'AT and KEYHAN groups have cited economic factors and an unsettled financial situation as the reasons for the closure of the papers.

REPORTAGE ON EVENTS, INCIDENTS OF 27 MARCH

PLO Message of Thanks

LD270912 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 27 Mar 79 LD

[Text] The PLO office in Tehran issued a statement last night expressing gratitude to the Islamic Iranian nation for its opposition to the one-sided Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement. The text of this statement is as follows:

In these critical times when As-Sadat, Begin and Carter have gathered together to plan a conspiracy against the Palestinian nation and the aspirations of the Arab nations, various reactions have taken place which indicate the condemnation of the As-Sadat-Israel-U.S. conspiracy. The PLO is proud to pay tribute to the leading role of Imam Khomeyni--may the Almighty lengthen his days--and of the nation and Government of Iran, which has demonstrated the political awareness of this Muslim revolutionary nation. We express gratitude for the commendable position adopted by the Iranian Government regarding the reaction of the Arab students in Iran who are studying in this exalted country and who have occupied the Egyptian Embassy in an emotional manner, and for persuading them to leave the embassy. We also request the Arab students to assist the government in this in the appropriate manner.

The Iranian government leaders and the PLO have a common feeling in condemning this disgraceful conspiracy, and it will not be unexpected if the PLO and the Iranian Government adopt one political position. We ask the Arab students to follow the PLO, and we are certain that the Iranian Government's decisions (?respond) to the wishes of the Palestinian revolution and of the Muslim and Arab nations.

New Chief of General Staff

LD271120 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Mar 79 LD

[Text] On the order of Mehdi Bazargan, prime minister of the Provisional Government of Iran's Islamic revolution, Maj Gen Naser Farbod was appointed chief of general staff and coordinator of forces of the Islamic Iranian Army as of yesterday, 26 March. According to PARS, this appointment follows the resignation of Major General Qarani. In a statement issued by the Army General Staff Command today, it has been pointed out that Maj Gen Naser Farbod, who was retired in September 1975, is a military affairs expert in strategic and national security issues. The statement emphasizes that General Farbod, in view of his national and military duty and his confidence in himself, hopes he will serve his new and very responsible post in the best manner possible.

BAKHTIAR MESSAGE WARNS AGAINST ISLAMIC REPUBLIC

NC241232 Paris AFP in English 1227 GMT 24 Mar 79 NC

[Text] Tehran, March 24 (AFP)--The fugitive overthrown premier of Iran, Shahpur Bakhtiar, sent a tape-recorded message today to show that he was still alive and to warn against the planned Islamic republic.

His new year's message to the Iranian people was delivered to the AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE news bureau here today with a hand-written letter on paper bearing the letterhead of Claridge's Hotel in London. (A hotel spokesman said Mr. Bakhtiar was not known to have been at the hotel recently and was not there now.)

Premier Bakhtiar fled as supporters of Shi'ite Muslim leader Ruhollah Khomeyni seized power on Feb 11. He was rumoured to have been killed or to have been captured.

Events since then showed that he "was right" to predict a "dark future" for Iran if his government fell, said the tape-recording which sounded like Mr. Bakhtiar's voice.

"What I see now on the horizon does not at all resemble freedom, democracy, economic progress and development of the national culture."

In the short time after the shah designated Mr. Bakhtiar to replace a military government, the new premier fulfilled all his promises, the message said. He had accorded freedom of the press, dismantled the SAVAK (political police), arranged to have the shah leave the country, freed political prisoners and allowed Ayatollah Khomeyni to return after 15 years in exile.

"We have replaced an aged, corrupt dictatorship with dictatorship accompanied by anarchy," the message commented on subsequent developments--"and all this in the hope of setting up an Islamic republic.

"What will this Islamic republic be like? Do not ask me because nobody can clearly define its characteristics."

Mr. Bazargan (the current premier) has said that no (?book on) that subject has yet been written, and he is right." "In other words, you (Mr. Bazargan) are asking the nation to vote for something totally unknown, without any other choice--and this at a time when the radio and television (in Iran) have never talked so much about liberty.

"Dear brothers and sisters, I will not vote for such a republic because I consider it an obstacle to the progress of society, to the nation's glory, to the blossoming of the economy and human rights".

(In London, the British Foreign Office said it had no knowledge of Mr Bakhtiar being in Britain.)

The long message in Farsi (Persian) recalled that Mr. Bakhtiar had struggled against "the dictatorship" since 1970 when he was jailed "for the fifth time in a prison of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi".

The recording affirmed Mr. Bakhtiar was following in the footsteps of Premier Muhammad Mosaddeq, who nationalized the oil industry and whose overthrow in 1953 brought the shah back to power.

The tape recording denied that Mr. Bakhtiar betrayed his cause in agreeing to be designated premier by the shah early last January. That was "to save the nation from anarchy and preserve its unity.

"You all know, and you understand a little better every day that my goal was ...democracy and prevention of bloodshed and anarchy". (The army was expected to seize power then if a man not designated by the shah had become premier).

Apparently speaking to the present leaders, Mr. Bakhtiar said: "I ask you to eliminate the power of the corrupt, the charlatans...to guarantee individual and social rights, to repeal anti-Islamic laws and continue Iran's independent policy.

"That is a programme on which unity can be built, unlike the current behaviour of a government that considers itself powerless, and rightly so".

Before Mr. Bakhtiar became premier, he announced that he would stop selling petroleum to Israel and South Africa, that he would gradually lift martial law, and that the shah would leave "for a rest".

NVOI COMMENTS ON OIL PRICING, STRUGGLE AGAINST CARTELS

TA272217 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1930 GMT 17 Mar 79 TA

[Unattributed commentary: "OPEC and the Struggle Against the Oil Cartels"]

[Excerpts] Our country's revolutionary [word indistinct] which was combined with the strike of the oil industry workers, cut oil production in our country drastically. This decrease in oil production created an energy crisis in the West. Under the toppled regime of Mohammad Reza, the oil cartel plundered our country's oil for years. Production and sale of oil is currently carried out solely by the National Iranian Oil Company. The Provisional Revolutionary Government of Iran abolished all types of interference by the plundering Consortium.

Some of the member-countries of OPEC raised the price of their oil without waiting for the next OPEC conference, not only because of the inflationary cost of the dollar, but with a view to the fact that the price of oil on the free market is about $6.00 a barrel, not $12.00 as established at the recent OPEC conference. Depending on the opinion of oil and economic experts, who sell the oil produced from the Persian Gulf area to the world markets, they make $6.00 profit on each barrel. Therefore, the decision of Mr Bazargan's Provisional Revolutionary Government to sell the oil independently to the world markets and to rupture all relations with the Consortium is a step forward to Iran's advantage, which is confirmed by the people of Iran.

Several years ago, the Venezuelan, Iraqi, Algerian and Libyan governments made a similar decision. The sale of oil by the above countries, and without (?OPEC's) interference, added tremendously to their income and caused a heavy blow to [words indistinct]. Iran has made it clear that it will remain in OPEC, but will arrange and carry out its oil policy on the basis of the interests of the people of Iran.

Washington is also striving to harmonize its policy with Peking in order to benefit from China as well. It wasn't coincidental that during his visit to Peking, the American energy secretary conspired with the Chinese Government to cooperate in oil monopolies.

The struggle of [word indistinct] countries for their national oil profits has entered a new phase, the characteristics of which are: Emphasis on the struggle and a comparison between [word indistinct] countries and the plundering monopolies. The next OPEC conference in Geneva should show the West that oil producing and selling countries are not ready to retreat, and are vigorously defending their rights to exploit their own oil. The Provisional Revolutionary Government of Iran can undoubtedly play a worthwhile part by carrying out its national and progressive policy on the international scene.

NVOI COMMENTARY CALLS FOR OPEN TRIALS

TA272327 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1930 GMT 17 Mar 79 TA

[Unattributed commentary: "Criminals Should Be Tried in Open Courts"]

[Text] Dear compatriots, the trial of traitors, criminals, plunderers of the country's treasury, and violators of people's rights and freedom has been going on in the people's revolutionary courts of Imam Khomeyni in Tehran and in other cities of the country since the first days of the revolution's victory. Of course, there can be no argument about the trial of those individuals who, during many years and especially during the past 25 years, spilled the blood of thousands of struggling Iranians and robbed everything the people possessed; those who committed treason in the interests of imperialist countries headed by America; and those who ignoring ethical norms, committed unprecedented terrors and crimes.

In reality, the trial of traitors and criminals is one of the pressing responsibilities of every national and democratic revolution, and the [word indistinct] victories of revolution dictate that this matter be treated with utmost accuracy and integrity, as we have witnessed in the experience of all national and democratic revolutions. However, what goes on in our country's secret courts today is at least rare if not unprecedented in the history of national and democratic revolutions; that is, the investigation and trials of those convicted of treason and crimes during the former hated and murderous regime, are conducted in courts away from the public view and under completely secret conditions, and the people and even the Provisional Islamic Revolutionary Government learn about it through the mass media only after the executions occur.

Let us bear in mind that one of the main legitimate arguments and legal rights of the national and progressive forces against the former terroristic and despotic regime was that for many years, the bloodthirsty and hangman shah, through a handful of beastly and murderous SAVAK people, arrested those fighting for our country's freedom and tried and executed them without any legal basis. Then they informed the people about the committed crime.

The majority of our country's population and the prominent and competent international legal organizations struggled against those courts and against the most barbaric methods of their trials of noble Iranians, and rendered praiseworthy assistance in abolishing oppression and tyranny against the noble Iranian people.

Now people have the right to ask why these enemies of revolution, these traitors and criminals are being tried in courts behind closed doors. Why are people not being informed about what goes on in revolutionary courts, and why are even the representatives of the government, newspapermen, radio and TV correspondents not permitted to attend these trials? Don't those people who gave sacrifices for the victory of revolution have the right to know who ruled them during those abominable years, and what treason and crimes were committed? Don't those people have the right to learn about the (?plots) which were being devised for their annihilation? This method of trial of the enemies of revolution in revolutionary courts harms Iran's great revolution to a tremendous extent, both at home and abroad, and tarnishes the greatness of the revolution.

Trial in open courts would enable the people of our country to obtain more information not only about the crimes and treason, but would also make the people better prepared to confront all kinds of plans and treacherous plots (?against) the revolution. During his radio-TV address, Engineer Bazargan, the prime minister of the Provisional Revolutionary Government, protested to the revolutionary (?religious) courts and called the group executions shameful. Mr Bazargan said that the inequitable enforcement of justice to which these courts have resorted for the hasty implementation of legal principles has tarnished the greatness and importance of the revolution's victories. Mr Bazargan said that those groups of international organizations whose activities helped the shah's downfall have protested. The Iranian Committee for the Defense of Human Rights and the International Committee of Lawyers also want these trials conducted under altogether free conditions. Imam Khomeyni's command indicates that [word indistinct] execution also do not consider the continuation of these trials under the previously existing conditions advisable. Undoubtedly, people want to have the trials and punishment of enemies conducted quickly in revolutionary, open courts.

Thirty-five years have passed since World War II ended, but the dreadful and inhuman crimes of fascists in France, in the Soviet Union and in other countries are still remembered. As we know, after the end of World War II, the criminals of this dreadful war were tried not in tribunals behind closed doors, but in the open courts of Nuremberg. The crimes of those Nazi criminals did not require any proof or the convening of a court. People are (?waiting) for the trial and punishment of all the enemies of the revolution, of murderous and plunderer Mohammad Reza's hirelings. After the issuance of Imam Khomeyni's command, they want Mr Bazargan's Provisional Government to carry out this serious and important responsibility appropriately and in compliance with (?legal measures) and revolutionary relations, and in completely open conditions.

NVOI ON EVENTS IN SANANDAJ, SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN

TA261532 [Editorial Report TA] The Clandestine National Voice of Iran in Azerbaijani to Iran at 1745 GMT on 23 March carries a commentary entitled "Difficulties Must Be Solved With Revolutionary Dedication." The commentary says:

"Dear compatriots: The recent events in Sanandaj, where clashes between two conflicting sides resulted in a great number of deaths and injuries, have rightly caused grief among our country's people. However, concern shown and (?measures adopted) with good will by both the ethnic and government officials have extinguished the fire of conflict, and the two sides have agreed to solve the problems of means of negotiations.

"As you know, a high-level ethnic and governmental delegation headed by His Great Holiness Ayatollah Taleqani has gone to Sanandaj and is currently holding talks with the ethnic and national leaders of the people of Kordestan. There is and can be no doubt with regard to the fact that our Kurdish compatriots consider themselves as a segment of the large family of the Iranian nation, and that throughout history they have shared (?the fortunes) and misfortunes of the Iranian nation."

After noting that the people of Kordestan also took part in the recent revolutionary struggle, the commentary says: "The people of Kordestan have every right to benefit from the results and achievements of the victorious Islamic revolution. His Holiness Imam Khomeyni stated on various occasions that all the members of the nation should benefit from the achievements of the revolution. His Holiness Ayatollah Taleqani has dwelt extensively on the rights and freedoms of the ethnic minorities living in Iran. This conforms to the demands, desires and aspirations of the ethnic minorities in our country.

"One cannot possibly close one's eyes to the country's current situation. His Holiness Ayatollah Taleqani has repeatedly stated that our homeland is a large country where many minorities live. These minorities have their own languages, customs, traditions and culture, and have for years on end been demanding the recognition of these just rights. Within a united country, that is within the framework of a free Iran, they want to enjoy their own ethnic rights. Iranian Kordestan's people are one of the ethnic minorities which from times immemorial have been demanding their just and undeniable rights. But in the past, during the despotic Pahlavi rule, this just demand was completely ignored, and on every occasion the ethnic minorities were labeled as separatists and drowned in blood. Fortunately, this cruel regime has finally been destroyed and thrown into history's dustbin as a result of the revolution achieved by all the people of Iran."

The commentary continues: "The leaders of Iran's ethnic minorities and of the Provisional Revolutionary Islamic Government have long expressed their respect for minority rights and have announced that the Islamic republic's new constitution will take these rights into consideration. Like other ethnic groups which live in various parts of our country and consider themselves as segments of the Iranian nation, the people of Kordestan are hopeful that with the establishment of a national Islamic republic, their legal national rights, which have already been confirmed by the leaders of the Islamic revolution, will be officially recognized and implemented."

After noting that events in Sanandaj have shown that the minorities issue can only be solved "in an atmosphere of happy brotherhood through negotiations," the commentary concludes: "The Iranian revolution has triumphed, and the revolutionary government has taken the first strides toward solving the country's major issues. The satisfaction of the ethnic minorities' aspirations falls within that category of issues."

"Our country's and nation's affairs dictate that all discords should be swept aside, and that, in unity of word and action and guided by a wide vision and revolutionary dedication, steps should be taken toward solving the country's problems, including the recognition of the rights of ethnic minorities."

The radio then carries a commentary entitled "Let Friendship Replace Conflict," which discusses events in Afghanistan. After noting that "events in Afghanistan are drawing world public attention as well as the attention of Iranian people," the commentary says that the "heroic and Islamic Afghan nation, relying on its true sons in the country's armed forces, launched an armed revolt and achieved a true revolution, and established a national and democratic republic about a year ago," because the regime of Mohammad Daud Khan, which replaced Mohammad Zahir's regime, was no better than that of its predecessor. The commentary then says that "the leaders of the National and Democratic Republic of Afghanistan have repeatedly declared that Afghanistan's official religion is Islam."

After noting the work done by the new government, such as land reform, housing for workers, freedom for women and political rights for all the people, the commentary says: "The fact is that a neighboring Islamic country revolted against the evil monarchic regime and its imperialist supporters, and within the framework of its national traditions, concepts and aspirations, embarked on a series of major reforms. All these relate to a country's internal affairs. But as you are aware, and as we have also witnessed in our own country, imperialism and reaction embark on intervention wherever they see that their interests are endangered, and they resort to devilish schemes for this purpose. Afghanistan is not an exception in this respect. In a bid to eliminate the Afghan people's revolutionary gains, the CIA does not refrain from resorting to all sorts of conspiracies and subversive activities, including terror, violence, [word indistinct] and acts likely to undermine close neighborly relations and, if necessary, to cause frontier clashes between Afghanistan and its neighbors.

The commentary adds: "Imperialism is aware that it can implement its treacherous schemes against the nations in our region only by creating discord and enmity among them, especially among the region's Islamic countries. And we on our part are aware that the ousted shah's abominable regime was an instrument in the hands of the regional reaction and of U.S. imperialism for organizing conspiracies against progressive regimes and freedom movements in the area."

The commentary concludes: "Through their national and Islamic revolution, our country's people have ended the life of the former regime. This should open a brilliant (?period) of fine neighborly relations among the Islamic countries, especially between our nation and the Islamic Afghan nation. Under such conditions, one should be vigilant, and with farsightedness and deep perception and in a spirit of loyalty and brotherhood, taking into consideration the national and common aims of the two countries, one should resolve the issues in an atmosphere of loyalty and brotherhood.

"The interests of our nation, of the Islamic Afghan nation and of all liberated nations require that discord, enmity and suspicion be replaced by friendship and brotherhood, and that to achieve progress we must jointly direct our efforts to struggle against the common enemy, that is against neocolonialism, reaction and the remnants of the ousted, evil and abominable regimes."

INDIA

DESAI MAKES STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT ON KOSYGIN VISIT

BK261451 Delhi ISI in English 1430 GMT 26 Mar 79 BK

[Text] The following statement was made by the prime minister in Parliament on 26 March regarding the recent visit to India of the Soviet Prime Minister Aleksey Kosygin.

As the house is aware, the chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, A.N. Kosygin, paid an official visit to India from 9 to 15 March, 1979. Since his last visit to India in 1968 there had been several changes in the face of Indian economy and agriculture. We therefore thought that it would be appropriate for us to acquaint him with the pace and quality of Indian development. His programme accordingly included 3 days of stay in Delhi and 2 days for visits to outside places. He visited the heavy engineering corporation plant in Ranchi, spent some time at Anand visiting a typical Indian village, the Amul dairy plant and the national dairy development board. He also visited the Hindustan machine tools plant and the Indian space research organisation centre at Bangalore. Wherever he went he showed keen appreciation of the institutions he visited and the warmth of his reception.

During his stay in Delhi he had several long discussions with me and with the deputy prime minister (finance) and the deputy prime minister (defence), the minister of external affairs and the minister of industry. We had two plenary meetings with some members of our government and the senior members of his delegation. The joint communique, a copy of which is placed on the table of the house, gives a summary on the important points arising out of the various discussions. Since the communique contains the important conclusions we reached during our discussions, I am refraining from repeating them here.

India-Soviet relations are a vivid demonstration of how two countries different in their socioeconomic structures can work together for bilateral advantage and on the basis of Pancasila. Cooperation between our two countries has gathered new momentum and constitutes an important factor for peace and stability in Asia, indeed in the world.

The Soviet Union recognises the validity of India's policy of nonalignment which is reflected in our independence of judgment and action. We on our part recognise what the Soviet Union has done to ensure detente and promoting cooperation in Europe. We would like to see this process of detente extended to other parts of the globe. It was therefore natural that we viewed with some concern the disturbed situation in Southeast Asia and also in our west. We agreed that the people of a country should be allowed to develop themselves without outside interference in a manner of their choice and in a way suited to their own genius. We also agreed that relations between countries must be governed on the basic principles such as respect for territorial integrity, sovereignty and nonuse of force. We recognised that for peace and stability in Asia it was necessary for all countries in the region to cooperate with each other for mutual benefit and on the basis of equality and respect for sovereignty.

I am very happy to say that there was a very wide-ranging similarity of views between our two countries. As the house is aware, the mutually beneficial cooperation between India and the Soviet Union extends to a very large number of fields. It is a happy tradition in India-Soviet relations that the leaders of the two countries periodically meet and exchange views on a number of subjects covering both bilateral relations and the international situation.

The present visit has once again demonstrated the great value of such contacts since they serve to bring the two countries even closer together. We are confident that as a result of the discussions held during this visit India-Soviet cooperation will receive a further impetus and the degree of understanding which prevails between us will grow as time goes by.

MP'S AGAINST SEPARATE ISRAEL-EGYPT AGREEMENT

BK261658 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Mar 79 BK

[Text] One hundred and fifty members of Parliament belonging to various parties have said that attempts of the governments of the United States, Egypt and Israel to settle the West Asia problem through separate agreements ignore the interest of the Arab countries and the legitimate rights of the Palestinians. In a statement issued in New Delhi today they have called for efforts to bring about a just solution to the problem with full participation of all Arab countries and the Palestinian Liberation Organization.

PAKISTAN

BHUTTO LOSES PRIVILEGE TO CONSULT LAWYER DAILY

BK261546 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Mar 79 BK

[Text] The Supreme Court registrar told the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN today that the privilege granted to Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto for daily consultations with his lawyers in Rawalpindi jail is automatically withdrawn following the Supreme Court's rejection of the review petition against the death sentence. However, his lawyer can meet him once every 15 days for consultations regarding the contempt of court petition now under consideration by the Supreme Court.

Mr Abdul Hafiz Pirzada, who is Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's lawyer in the contempt of court petition, this morning met with the Supreme Court's registrar where he was apprised of this position. The registrar also said that a full record of the appeal against the death sentence in the Mohammad Ahmed Khan murder case and the review petition were dispatched by car to the Lahore High Court after the rejection of the review petition on Saturday.

ARAB STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE AT EGYPTIAN CONSULATE IN KARACHI

BK261715 Hong Kong AFP in English 1215 GMT 26 Mar 79 BK

[Text] Karachi, 26 Mar (AFP)--About 200 Arab students demonstrated peacefully outside the Egyptian Consulate-General here today to protest against the impending Egypt-Israeli peace treaty.

The students belonging to organisations including the Arab Students Association, the Palestinian Students Union, the National Union of Iraqi Students and the Jordanian Students Union, chanted slogans against Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat and denounced the peace treaty as a "betrayal of the Arab cause."

Mr Uthman Abu Ghawsh, president of the Arab Students Association, handed a memorandum to the Egyptian counsul-general warning him that the treaty would provide a "foothold to the U.S. imperialism on the Arab soil," and compromise the Arab stand on the Palestinian issue.

A heavy police posse stood by during the peaceful demonstration. There were no arrests.